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FROM THE PRACTICAL (BICYCLES) TO THE PROBABLY NOT REAL (HALF-CATS), A LOOK AT CANADA'S CROWDFUNDING STARS PAGE 22

After the summer snowstorm

Flakes no longer falling, but cleanup continues PAGE 6

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311 calls set record but use of mobile app still slow

Small uptake. Nenshi says app is faster, but just 4% used it to report downed trees after recent snow

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary received a record number of 311 calls in the wake of this week's heavy snowfall, but only a small fraction of citizens followed the mayor's advice and used the city's dedicated mobile app to submit their requests.

Thousands of Calgarians reported "tree emergencies" since the wet snow started weighing down branches Sept. 9, but only four per cent of those reports came via the mobile app, according to city data provided to Metro.

"I'm a little surprised," said Coun. Peter Demong, who has championed 311 service improvements in general and the mobile app specifically since its launch in May 2013.

"It hasn't really taken off as quickly as I had hoped," Demong said.

Another 12 per cent of the requests came via the city's 311 web interface, but the vast majority of the tree calls, 84 per cent, came the old-fashioned way — over the phone.

This, despite an average wait time of 18 minutes and 52 seconds to even reach a 311 operator on Wednesday.

Once callers got through, the average call length that day clocked in at just under four minutes, making the whole process take about as long as an average television sitcom, not counting commercials.

On Thursday, Mayor Naheed Nenshi reminded Calgarians there is an easier way.

"The 311 app is really great for events like today because you can take a picture of the tree with your smartphone, upload it to the 311 app, and it'll automatically be geotagged," he said. "It saves a lot of time and work."

A total of 12,925 calls came in on Wednesday, the most in Calgary's 311 history, exceeding even the volumes on any day during the June 2013 flooding.

Donna Leveille downloaded the app Wednesday morning after her husband couldn't get through on the phone to 311 to report a sagging tree branch encroaching on power lines near their home.

"It was really easy to download and use," she said. "I'll probably use it more, now."

POSTGRADUATE WOES

Louis Ikoghode, president of the Students' Association of Bow Valley College, stares out a window on campus Thursday. A new study released this week suggests Alberta's post-secondary system is the most unaffordable in Canada for low-income families. Student representatives like Ikoghode are now raising concerns about potential one-time tuition hikes, stating some students will be forced to abandon their career aspirations because of cost. See the story on page 5. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

1
ART UNVEILED
Students at Langevin School have been working with artist Charlie Johnston on a mural at their school. Today they unveil it as a part of the second annual Beakerhead Festival. Check it out at 107 6A Street NE.

2
MISSING GIRL
Police are looking for the public's help to find Shyana Popplestone, 16, after she was reported missing July 7. She is white, 5-6, 150 lb with blonde hair. Call police at 403-266-1234 with info.

3
NFL PROBE
Two NFL owners overseeing the investigation into how the league handled evidence in the Ray Rice domestic violence case have pledged to make the findings public.

4
DRONE-EYE VIEW
Flying a drone near London, England, a YouTube user captured footage of what appears to be a partly constructed Millennium Falcon cloaked in a tarpaulin on the set of Star Wars Episode VII.

5
MARS MISSION
NASA's Curiosity rover has reached the base of Mount Sharp, its destination since landing on Mars two years ago. Officials say drilling could begin as early as next week.

Dog found suffering from 'severe neglect' in Ogden

What happened to Ruby? Dog died in surgery after being picked up by Good Samaritan

JEREMY NOLAIS
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When she was found, Ruby the bulldog was starving, missing much of an ear, had large wounds on her hind legs and infections in both her eyes.

Some of the wounds were fresh, others not so much. She also had feces stains on her paws.

The dog's state was enough for Brad Nichols, manager of cruelty investigations for the Calgary Humane Society, to declare the dog's state the result of "some of the most severe overall neglect I've witnessed."

Before she was named 'Ruby' by a city vet clinic, the bulldog was found wandering near an Ogden-area strip mall Sept. 5. She was picked up by a Good Samaritan and taken to hospital. She underwent surgery on her eye shortly after being recovered, but died on the operating table.

"This dog was in just such a bad way," Nichols said. "It had no energy stores, no fat stores. It really just didn't have what it took to get through the surgery."

The Humane Society is now appealing to the public in hopes of tracking down the bulldog's owner, who could face charges of animal abuse and neglect.

Nichols said the collection of injuries, infections as well as the stains found on her paws makes him quite confident that what happened to Ruby wasn't the result of "nature."

"Even if it happened in a home where there was an accidental dog fight that led to these injuries, they would need to be treated," he said. "We don't know whether this dog got loose, whether this dog got turned loose — what happened to this dog? This is why we're looking for some help."

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-205-4455.

Damage is seen to the ear of this white bulldog named Ruby, who was found at an Ogden-area strip mall. She suffered numerous injuries before being found by Good Samaritan. Ruby later died in surgery. COURTESY CALGARY HUMANE SOCIETY

‘Tinkering’ to school ranking criteria aims for more clarity

CBE. Board held focus groups to garner public input following disputes

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Calgary Board of Education officials say their proposed new ranking formula for capital projects is a tad more precise, and aims to clear up confusion among parents appealing for classrooms close to home.

The board unveiled its proposal Thursday evening, a plan it says was derived largely from feedback during two focus-group meetings with parents in the spring. Those came on the heels of a tense period that saw two west-end communities take their push for new schools directly to the CBE’s headquarters, staging rallies on-site.

“I don’t think there are major issues here; this is what I call tinkering,” said Frank Coppinger, the board’s superintendent for facilities and environmental services, during an open house Thursday.

“The overall philosophy is to have a fair and equitable and reasonably understood approach to remove the potential competition for community schools.... This is an objective, data-driven approach to remove that.”

The new ranking criteria still needs approval from the CBE’s elected trustee board.

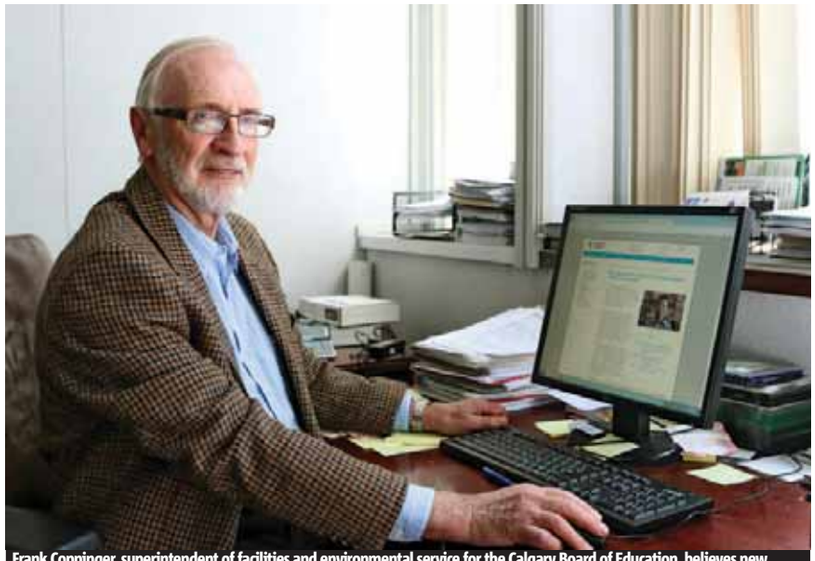
It could be used to develop both a ranked list of modular classroom needs — the province is now requiring such a document — in November as well as the highly debated capital plan in the new year.

That capital plan is largely followed by the province when it comes time to approve new-school and modernization projects.

The most noteworthy change in the new formula is a move away from assigning point values to ranges of students. For example, under the previous formula, a community with between 150-299 elementary-aged kids would be awarded 10 points, but those with, say, 300 kids would receive 20 points. Parents complained that one child shouldn’t make or break their shot at having a school, Coppinger said.

Mother Deanna Bradley is among those that took part in the springtime focus groups and previously drafted her own capital plan relying less on community boundaries and more on proximity to schools.

Bradley said there were some positive changes in the formula showcased Thursday, including the board now taking into account the travel time and distance between a community and its overflow school.



Frank Coppinger, superintendent of facilities and environmental service for the Calgary Board of Education, believes new criteria being proposed by his team will provide parents with a clear picture of how new-school projects are ranked. METRO FILE

Teacher may spend another 60 days in Jakarta jail

Neil Bantleman with his wife Tracy in an undated photo. METRO FILE

A former Calgary teacher received notice late Thursday that he will remain behind bars in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta for at least another month, despite not being charged criminally.

Neil Bantleman, who taught at Calgary’s Webber Academy for a decade, was arrested July 14 after kindergarten-aged students at Jakarta International School (JIS) came forward with claims they’d been sexually abused.

Supporters of Bantleman — including family, his peers at JIS and former students — have maintained his innocence and pointed out no formal charges have been laid.

It was initially thought that Bantleman couldn’t be held past 60 days without charges, but brother Guy Bantleman said his understanding now is that the detention could be twice that long.

“It’s such a fluid type of situation,” he said. “It’s not like what you would expect in Canada, where you’ve got dates and deadlines.”

Canadian Foreign Affairs officials, including Minister John Baird, have broached Bantleman’s accusations with Indonesian officials but say they must respect the criminal process of other countries.

Guy said his comments about the actions — or lack thereof — of Canadian officials have become more “aggressive” of late.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Security risks?

Guy Bantleman said legal counsel for his brother has appealed to have him transferred another jail.

- Tracy Bantleman has routinely visited her husband and said the facility has apparent security risks as many detainees are allowed to roam freely between cells.

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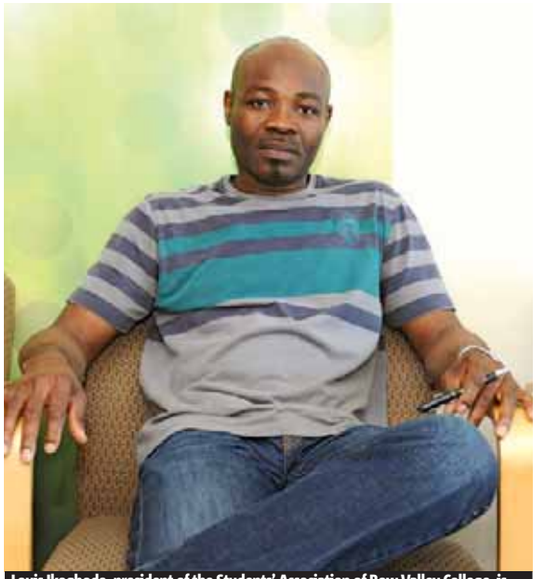
Alberta post-secondary 'least affordable for low-income families' in Canada: Study



Louis Ikoghode, president of the Students' Association of Bow Valley College, is seen Thursday. He fears students will feel the pinch more than they already are if market-modifier tuition increases are approved at his school. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Tuition hikes pitched. Student groups fear being 'stonewalled' as costs could rise

JEREMY NOLAIS
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As post-secondary campuses across Alberta eye pitches for program-specific tuition increases, a new study suggest that students from low-income families are at more of a disadvantage to make ends meet than their peers in other provinces.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) released its findings this week and projects Alberta's average tuition cost per student will rise nine per cent to $7,741 come 2017-18.

The think-tank also found that compulsory fees outside of instructional dollars are the highest in Alberta "by far" with students forking out an average of $1,025 annually for everything from on-campus services to athletics fees.

"We've seen the additional compulsory fees really spiking in Alberta and have been the highest in the country for a little while," said Erika Shaker, director of CCPA's education project.

In terms of total cost to students, Alberta finds itself smack-dab in the middle of 10 provinces, but when CCPA applied its cost-of-learning index, it found the province's post-secondary system to be the "least affordable for low-income families."

The study appeared to reinforce concerns from student groups recently, who claim their members are already struggling to make ends meet and that they're now being shut out of talks about potential program-specific tuition hikes, known as market modifiers.

The 2010 proposals

Schools around Alberta appear to be mulling proposals to the province for market-modifier tuition increases.

- The last time such increases were allowed was in 2010, but just a quarter of submissions were approved. University of Calgary, University of Alberta, Bow Valley College, Olds College and University of Lethbridge submitted proposals for market-modifier increases.

The province last accepted submissions for such increases in 2010, approving six of 24 proposals put forward. The average approved increase was 36 per cent at the time.

Yet students say they have little idea about what will be proposed for increases, only ideas of which programs are being considered.

Bow Valley College, for example, told Metro Wednesday it was "investigating" increased charges for its nursing and allied health programs. That information was surprising to Louis Ikoghode, president of the institution's students' association.

"Nothing has been told to us," he said. "One thing is for sure, students don't want any hike through market modifiers.

"We're trying to set up meetings. We've been stonewalled at the lower levels, so we're reaching out to the higher levels."

A statement from Bow Valley's administration Thursday said initial contact had been made with the students' association and consultation meetings were being planned. WITH FILES FROM LEAH GERMAIN IN EDMONTON

Calgary West. Ken Hughes to refuse re-election as MLA

A Calgary MLA has announced he won't run in the next provincial election, just days after the governing Tories elected a new leader.

Ken Hughes, representative for Calgary West, announced his plans in a statement Thursday.

"I wanted to make my future intentions known before Premier-(designate Jim) Prentice selects his new cabinet ... I am taking this personal step at this time to help create momentum for that renewal. There can be no space at the cabinet table if some people don't step back and allow renewal to take place. The strongest possible way for me to make this statement about the importance of renewal and support Jim Prentice in his work is to take this step."

Hughes initially tested the waters during the Tory leadership contest, but dropped out after Prentice announced intentions to run. METRO

Calgary West MLA Ken Hughes THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

SW Calgary

One safely flees house fire

One person was able to safely flee a basement fire at a townhouse complex in southwest Calgary Thursday afternoon.

Firefighters were called to the 7100 block of Coach Hill Rd. SW after a call from the townhouse tenant who was alerted by the smoke alarm. The basement suffered fire damage, but the entire townhouse suffered smoke damage.

Origin and cause are still being investigated by fire crews. METRO

Jim Prentice

Premier-designate names team

Incoming Alberta premier Jim Prentice has announced two new key advisers.

Mike Percy will be his chief of staff and Patricia Misutka will be his principal secretary.

Percy, an economist, is the former dean of business at the University of Alberta and at one time headed the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.

Misutka was chief of staff to former Edmonton mayor Stephen Mandel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

City crews clean up fallen tree branches in the Acadia area on Thursday after a summer snowstorm wreaked havoc on city trees. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

September snow cleanup continues

Post snowstorm. As of Thursday afternoon, roughly 1,800 Enmax customers remained without power, city says

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Calgary's city-owned utility provider restored electricity to about 5,000 more customers Thursday morning after the previous day's heavy snowfall downed thousands of tree branches and left tens of thousands of people without power.

As of 1:45 p.m., about 1,800 Enmax customers remained without power, according to a city statement. As many as 30,000 were left in the dark on Wednesday.

City crews were still working Thursday morning to deal with the most high-risk situations involving downed trees, Mayor Naheed Nenshi said, but they will eventually get to all of them.

"So, if you've got things like trees blocking sidewalk, on a lower-traffic road, or if you have trees that are not in any way impeding people, we haven't really been working on those hazards," Nenshi said. "Our next step is to do cleanup and collection of the debris."

The mayor reiterated earlier advice to bundle up fallen branches — if safe to do so — in less than four-foot lengths and leave them where you normally put out your garbage. City workers will pick them up, but it may take days or weeks.

The mayor also asked Calgarians to help each other out by taking debris where possible to city landfills, where it will be accepted at no charge.

More than half of the 6,300 police and fire calls that Calgary 911 received since the snow started falling on Sept. 9 were related to the snow, according to city data.

The city's 311 service, meanwhile, received about 15,500 calls, 2,600 of which were for "tree emergencies," according to data released Thursday morning. Later in the afternoon, the city said the total number of reported tree emergencies since Sept. 9 stood at 3,830.

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Excel

Single dad gets more than a new home

Barrett Budgell, the single father of twin four-year-old boys, got quite the pleasant surprise when Excel Homes turned over the keys to his new Cochrane home.

Included with the new home was a freshly sodded yard, fencing, a stainless-steel barbecue and a children's playset. Not only that, but he received a $10,000 cheque for his boys' education.

Barrett Budgell celebrates the goodies in Excel's 10,000 home. COURTESY EXCEL HOMES

It was all to celebrate the construction of Excel's 10,000 home and 26th year in business.

We wanted to do something significant to commemorate the completion of our 10,000th home," said Lance Floer, Excel Homes president. METRO

Governance

City of Calgary does good: Survey

Most Calgarians believe the city is doing a "good " or "very good" job in delivering services to citizens, according to recent third-party survey, except when it comes to transportation, citizen engagement and homelessness.

But, even in those weakest areas, the level of satisfaction is relatively strong, said Mario Canseco, vice-president of public affairs for Insights West, a polling and market-research firm.

"The level of satisfaction among Calgarians with most of the core issues under the purview of the municipal government is extraordinary," Canseco said in a release.

Asked to rate their satisfaction in 12 different areas, survey respondents gave Calgary the lowest marks in "dealing with homelessness and poverty," with 44 per cent saying the city does a good or very good job in that respect.

"Providing good sanitation services" led the way with 81 per cent approval.

Survey results have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. METRO

2014 census data revised after error overestimated number of women

Flawed coding. Calgary, unlike most other major cities in Canada, still has more men than women

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Demographics geeks who also happen to be single, male and straight might have noticed that the dating pool looked to have finally tilted in their favour when Calgary released its 2014 census results in July.

Not only had the city grown by its largest margin ever — a total of 38,508 people — but the bulk of the new residents also appeared to be women.

Calgary has historically been a male-dominated municipality but, according to the July report, women now outnumbered men by a margin of 50.23 per cent to 49.77 per cent.

That marked a small but significant shift from the city's 2009 census, when men made up 50.44 per cent of the population.

It's the type of change that would go unnoticed by most people, save perhaps mathematically inclined men looking to maximize their dating odds.

Alas, for such souls, the sudden swing in the gender balance came mostly in the four-and-under age range and it turned out not to be true.

"It was a programming error," explained deputy city clerk Barb Clifford.

The city has published a revised version of the 2014 census report online, correcting the mistake.

In the new report, the total population stands unchanged at 1,195,194 residents, but there are 7,780 fewer women and the same number more men. That swings the gender balance back to the male side, 50.43 per cent to 49.57 per cent.

Census leader Paul Denys said the problem stemmed from a mistake in the software used to make estimates for the small number of households with which census takers had no contact or received no specific age and gender information.

In those cases, the system made estimates based on past age and gender data in the neighbourhood, but there was a flaw in the code.

"The way that the programming was written … every time it happened upon a record to be estimated, it defaulted to female," Denys said. "It has been changed now and we're definitely going to be keeping a watchful eye on this."

Quoted

"It did throw us for a bit of a loop."

Census leader Paul Denys on the 2014 results, which initially showed more females than males.

More online

For more news visit metronews.ca

Census leader Paul Denys, holding one of the iPads census takers now use to collect household information from around Calgary. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

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THANKS TO THOSE WHO THINK TWICE

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

Changing one's mind, especially publicly, is never easy.

That's why I was left in awe this week when Ward 13 Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart did an about-face on secondary suites and declared that from this point on he will support the plan, which would help thousands of Calgarians both find and afford homes.

It's a surprising move, because most of the current crop of councillors have a hard time ever changing their minds, especially the new ones.

Look at the bike lane debate: Despite the fact that transportation planners, traffic engineers, and numerous city departments recommended the bike lanes, seven councillors refused to look at the facts and instead were steadfast in their own opinion. Why do we pay for these studies if they're going to fall on deaf ears?

The same seems to be true for the secondary suite debate, which has already officially been endorsed by Calgary Economic Development, Canadian Homebuilders' Association, The Manning Foundation, University of Calgary Students' Union, the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, Vibrant Communities Calgary, Calgary Chamber of Commerce and others. Is that not enough? Why isn't that enough?

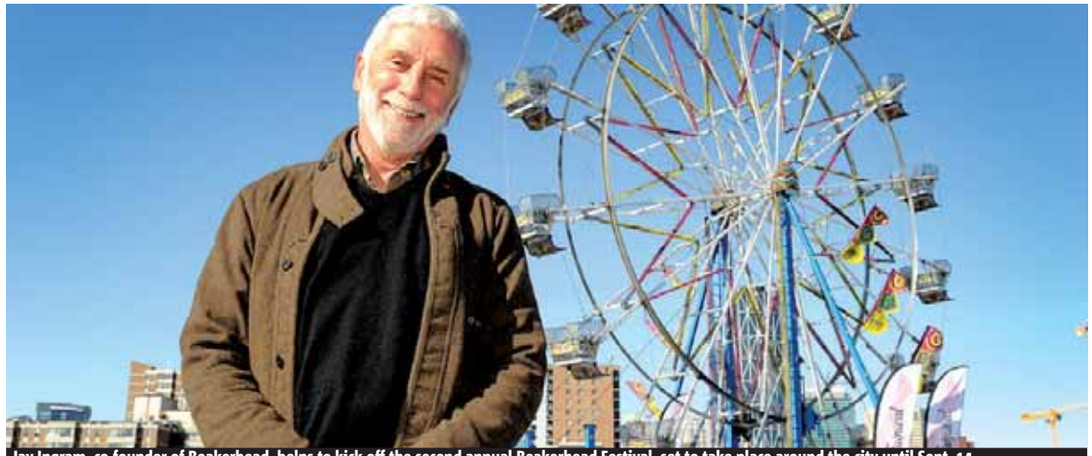
Are councillors too concerned with appeasing the community associations?

These councillors should be coming to the table having read all of the evidence and make a decision based on what's best for the city, not what might get them a few votes next election. If they disagree with the community association, then so be it. If they lose a few former votes because they made an educated decision, they actually might garner new supporters.

Maybe I'm wrong about them. Maybe Calgary would be better off without Peace Bridges, bike lanes and secondary suites.

After all, it'd only be fair to give them a chance to change my mind, too. I'm just not sure they can do it before 2017.

Mike Morrison writes Mike's Bloggity Blog and tweets from @mikesbloggity



Jay Ingram, co-founder of Beakerhead, helps to kick off the second annual Beakerhead Festival, set to take place around the city until Sept. 14.
CANDICE WARD FOR METRO

Spell-binding the city with science

A weekend of wonders.
Beakerhead set to be a super science-art-engineering mashup

While there will be no weather-changing machine at the second annual Beakerhead, science, art and engineering fans can merge their interests into one spectacular weekend.

This weekend, Calgary will turn into a giant laboratory, with everyone invited to check out a hands-on, city-wide event that will feature mechanical sculptures, classrooms of creators, interactive street art, and feats of creativity and engineering.

New to this year's Beakerhead will be the addition of food — with a scientific twist.

Chef Nicole Gomes, a contestant on Top Chef Canada took her cooking to challenging new heights in preparing a multi-course meal for the Periodic Table — Canada's first sustainable energy ferris-wheel-turned-dining-room.

"I took this opportunity because it was a challenge, and because it was on a ferris wheel," said Gomes.

When compiling the menu for the daily lunch and dinners (three seatings at lunch, starting at noon, and five over dinner, starting at 6 p.m.), Gomes had to break down the periodic table of elements and find how they relate to food.

Menu items include iron (Fe), a Thai beef penang chowder; zinc (Zn), a "polyunsaturated" salmon; and potassium (K), a banana "Kotton Kandy."

The ferris wheel itself is also a feat on its own, as it's powered with used cooking oil from downtown restaurants.

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

How to participate

- Tickets for this event are $90 per person and can be found online at Beakerhead.org.

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‘It’s a community responsibility to prevent this’

Reaching out to youth. Mom of Calgary man wants to make a difference after her son died fighting alongside extremists in Syria

Extremist recruitment

“This is where the wedge is driven — these criminal gangs are recruiting into radical causes. They present themselves as ‘We’re your new family and they’re not.’” **Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson** on gangs and extremists recruiting local youth

A woman whose 22-year-old son was killed while fighting with extremists in Syria says she doesn’t want her son to have died in vain.

Chris Boudreau, of Calgary, spoke Thursday at a conference on the radicalization of Muslim youth. Her son, Damian Clairmont, converted to Islam and reportedly died in heavy fighting in the city of Aleppo last winter as a member of the militant group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).

“We need to reach out to youth before they take that last drastic step of going overseas and getting way deeply involved in the trenches out there,” an emotional Boudreau said.

“Anything I can do to save a life and save a family from going through what we’re going through — I don’t want anyone else to feel that.”

Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson said finding a way of keeping young people away from bad influences isn’t just the responsibility of law enforcement.

“Too often people will say that’s a police responsibility,” said Hanson. “Part of it is but it’s a community responsibility to prevent this.”

Hanson said there’s evidence to suggest that Islamic militants and regular street gangs use similar methods to recruit young people.

“The commonality is in too many cases, our young people do struggle for a way to fit in. They need to feel they belong to something greater than themselves,” he said. “This is where the wedge is driven — these criminal gangs are recruiting into radical causes. They present themselves as ‘we’re your new family and they’re not.’”

Boudreau said she is not going to give up trying to save those who are being preyed upon, adding that she never gave up hope that her son would return. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Boudreau, whose son Damian Clairmont converted to Islam and died fighting in Syria last winter, speaks to reporters Thursday at a conference on how to prevent the radicalization of Muslim youth. BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oscar Pistorius cleared of murder, but prison time still a possibility

South Africa. Olympian may be found guilty of culpable homicide, as judge says he 'acted too hastily and with excessive force' on night his girlfriend was killed

Oscar Pistorius cries in a Pretoria, South Africa, courtroom Thursday, as Judge Thokozile Masipa delivers her verdict in his murder trial. The judge ruled out a murder conviction, but said he was negligent, raising the possibility he'll be convicted of culpable homicide. PHIL MAGAKOE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The judge in Oscar Pistorius' trial ruled out a murder conviction for the double-amputee Olympian Thursday in the shooting death of his girlfriend but said he was negligent, raising the possibility he'll be convicted of culpable homicide.

The verdict is expected on Friday when Judge Thokozile Masipa reconvenes the judgment phase, climaxing the trial that began in March.

If Pistorius is acquitted of murder, he could still be sent to jail for a maximum of 15 years if convicted of culpable homicide. Masipa, sitting in the dais and looking down at Pistorius and the packed courtroom, said she felt Pistorius acted negligently when he fired four times through a bathroom door in his home in the predawn hours of Valentine's Day last year.

"I am of the view that the accused acted too hastily and with excessive force," Masipa said of Pistorius' actions on the fatal night. She said the prosecution had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Pistorius committed premeditated murder. She also ruled out a lesser murder charge. As she spoke, Pistorius began sobbing quietly on the wooden bench, his shoulders shaking.

"Did the accused fail to take steps he should have taken? Yes," Masipa said. "He failed to take any steps to avoid the death."

If Pistorius is convicted on any charge, the case will be postponed until a later sentencing hearing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fateful night

The world-famous athlete has acknowledged firing the shots through the bathroom door in his home, hitting Steenkamp in the head, arm and hip area with hollow-point bullets from his 9 mm pistol.

- He said he mistook her for an intruder and denied murder, but the judge said Pistorius still could have taken other action, like calling the police or security at his housing estate.

Canadian gets 4 years for kidnapping, hiding kids in Mexico

Kevin Maryk THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Canadian man who kidnapped his two kids and hid them in Mexico has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Kevin Maryk of Winnipeg pleaded guilty in June to kidnapping his children in 2008 and keeping them in a heavily guarded home for four years.

Judge Ted Lismer said Maryk abused his position of trust and deprived the children of their mother and of a normal childhood.

"(Maryk) subjected them to live behind locked doors, barbed wire and surveillance cameras," Lismer said in his decision Thursday.

"He gravely abused them psychologically in depriving them, for four years, of a normal school education and association with other children."

The judge gave Maryk credit for time served, which leaves just over a year on the sentence.

The Crown had asked for five years behind bars, saying Maryk didn't allow the boy and girl to go to school and forced them to live as virtual prisoners in a heavily guarded house.

The defence, arguing Maryk made a mistake based on concern for his children, wanted his immediate release based on credit for time served in Canada and Mexico.

Maryk took his children from his former wife, Emily Cablek, during a court-ordered visit on Aug. 16, 2008, shortly after Cablek was awarded custody. At the time, Abby was about to turn six and Dominic was seven.

The four years the children spent without their mother are an "irretrievable loss," Lismer said. The children are now struggling in school and lag far behind their peers, he said.

Despite that, Maryk shows a "lack of remorse for this abdication which lasted for four long years."

Defence lawyer Todd Bourcier had told court that Maryk was worried the children's mother was returning to a life of prostitution and drug use. There is no chance Maryk would attempt to abduct Dominic or Abby again, he said.

Bourcier told the judge Maryk is not "the monster the Crown is making him out to be" but rather "a father who made a bad mistake."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kids struggling

In a recorded statement played for the judge, Cablek said both children have struggled to catch up in school and make friends since they returned. She said she is terrified something terrible will happen again and worries about her children being in contact with their father.

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A Kashmiri flood-affected woman holds onto bananas as volunteers distribute relief material in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir on Thursday. Flash floods have killed hundreds, washed away crops, damaged tens of thousands of homes and affected more than a million people in both India and Pakistan. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death toll at least 460 as floods overwhelm Kashmir and Punjab

Military aid. Pakistan saves thousands by boat and helicopter; India drops food for hundreds of thousands

Pakistani troops used helicopters and boats to remove thousands of marooned people from the country's plains where raging monsoon floods inundated more villages Thursday, as the Indian military dropped food for hundreds of thousands of people marooned in flood-hit areas of Indian-held Kashmir.

Pakistani and Indian officials said the death toll had reached 461 in the two countries.

Flash floods have washed away crops, damaged tens of thousands of homes and affected over a million people since Sept. 3, when heavy monsoon rains lashed Pakistan's eastern Punjab province and Kashmir, the Himalayan region claimed by both India and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the Pakistan-administered portion of Kashmir on Thursday and told flood victims that his government would do whatever it can to rebuild their damaged homes. "I am grieved over the deaths caused by the floods," he said in a televised speech.

Ahmad Kamal, a spokesman for Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, said 261 people have been killed and 482 injured in Pakistan. "The situation is still alarming as flood waters are entering the country's plains in the Jhang district, inundating more villages and affecting thousands," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the ground

- The Pakistani military said it was expanding relief operations in Punjab, where the Chenab River overflowed. Troops in helicopters and boats evacuated 4,000 more people from Jhang, it said. Authorities said high floods were likely to reach the southern Sindh province later this week.
- In India, officials said Thursday 80 army and air force transport aircraft and helicopters were dropping drinking water, biscuits, baby food and food packets for hundreds of thousands of marooned people in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir.

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ISIS. U.S. may find itself in 'a tricky situation' in striking at Islamic group

In expanding its airstrikes into Syria against extremists from the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), the U.S. may entangle itself in a storm of jihadis and rebel rivalries.

Unlike Iraq, the U.S. has no firm allies in Syria to take over areas if fighters from ISIS are pushed back. Unless the West decisively backs the outgunned moderate rebels, it risks the unintended consequence of prolonging the widely discredited rule of President Bashar Assad.

U. S. President Barack Obama said Wednesday that in the fight against ISIS, his country "cannot rely on an Assad regime that terrorizes its own people — a regime that will never regain the legitimacy it has lost."

"Instead, we must strengthen the opposition as the best counterweight to extremists like ISIL, while pursuing the political solution necessary to solve Syria's crisis once and for all," Obama said, referring to ISIS by another of its acronyms.

But to do so is complicated. In the northern and eastern parts of Syria where ISIS controls territory, the region is war-torn following three years of conflict, ripe with various loyalties and rivalries.

Further complicating any efforts, ISIS may be hiding assets and fighters among civilians, making it difficult for the U.S. to carry out military actions.

"A tricky situation is going to be how the U.S. will ensure that it is only ISIS targets that are hit, rather than civilians and others," said Haras Rafiq of the Quilliam Foundation, a London-based think-tank.

The U.S. would most likely target supply lines and heavy weapons to erode the group's power, rather than wiping it out, said Eliot Higgins, who analyzes weapons used in Syria. "It's really about targeting the stuff they can't hide easily."

Higgins added he believes the U.S. was unlikely to attack militants where there are civilians, as it would give ISIS a propaganda victory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fijian UN troops returned safely from Syrian captors

This image, from a video posted on a militant group's social media account Thursday, depicts a few of the 45 captive UN peacekeepers who were released later that day, a promise the militant group made in the video. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Safe and sound. After two weeks of captivity, UN troops returned safely by Syria's Nusra Front militant group

Al-Qaida-linked Syrian militants on Thursday released all 45 Fijian peacekeepers they had held captive for two weeks, bringing an end to a crisis that ensnared the UN monitoring force in the chaos of Syria's civil war.

Fighters from the Nusra Front captured the Fijian troops Aug. 28 on the Syrian-controlled side of Golan Heights, a disputed buffer zone between Israel and Syria.

The peacekeepers are reported to have been returned in good condition and were undergoing quick medical exams, a UN statement said.

The hostage crisis raised questions about the future of the UN's decades-old Golan mission, with participating nations threatening to pull their troops from Syria due to the escalating violence.

UN Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq said they were released on the Syrian side of the Quneitra crossing point near Israel into Israeli-controlled Golan territory. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the peacekeepers' release and thanked all involved in negotiating their return. One unidentified peacekeeper expressed relief upon being released.

"We're all very happy to be safe and alive," he told the Israeli channel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relieved and free

"We're all very happy to be safe and alive."

One of the unidentified 45 Fijian UN peacekeepers, following their release from captivity Thursday.

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Study blames brain chemical for risk-taking

Dopamine. University of B.C. research shows 'feel good' chemical behind decisions to steal a base in baseball or buy or sell stocks

THANDI FLETCHER
Metro in Vancouver

Choosing to stay or fold in a game of cards is a risky decision that could be influenced by a chemical in the brain.

That's the latest finding from a University of B.C. study that revealed the rise and fall of dopamine, sometimes called the "feel good" chemical, plays a key role in decisions involving risk and reward, like investors choosing to buy or sell stocks on Wall Street or baseball players deciding to steal a base.

Senior author Stan Floresco, a professor in UBC's department of psychology, said the findings show dopamine plays an important role in everyday decisions.

"It gives us insight into how this fundamental transmitter — which is involved in reward, in movement, in cognition — is playing a relatively rapid role in guiding our behaviour on a moment-to-moment basis," he said.

Floresco said the study's findings could help scientists better understand how dopamine influences conditions like problem gambling, drug addiction and schizophrenia.

"Dysfunction of this system has been identified in a number of neuropsychiatric disorders," he said. "It gives us insight into how this system works so we might have better understandings of what happens when it's not working so well."

The study was published Thursday in the peer-reviewed journal Neuron.

A new University of B.C. study has found the rise and fall of dopamine plays a key role in decisions involving risk and reward, like gambling.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Scientists unveil bizarre 50-foot water-dwelling dinosaur

University of Chicago paleontologist Paul C. Sereno stands in front of a 50-foot life-size model of a Spinosaurus at the National Geographic Society exhibit in Washington on Wednesday. The first non-bird dinosaur, which lived much of the time in water, was a cross between the fearsome creatures of Jurassic Park and the shark from Jaws, with a crocodile snout as big as a person and feet like a duck. The bizarre beast was already known to scientists from a long-ago fossil discovery, but most of those bones were destroyed during World War II. Now, 70 years later, a new skeleton found in Morocco reveals that the beast was far more aquatic than originally thought. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quake warning. 50 B.C. schools get new sensors

New earthquake detectors could buy some B.C. students precious seconds to get to safety before the ground starts shaking.

Program leader Prof. Carlos Ventura of the University of B.C. said as little as five seconds could make a difference, if it allows students a chance to duck under a desk.

Ventura, who's the director of the Earthquake Engineering Research Facility at UBC, said the detectors could give up to 40 seconds notice before a quake hits.

Sensors are being placed on the grounds of 50 Catholic and two public schools in the Lower Mainland as part of a pilot project funded by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the provincial government, Ventura said.

British Columbia is on a fault line and earthquake readiness has been an ongoing concern. Scientists have predicted the province is due for a major ground-shaker.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rare catch. Calico lobster turns up at Maine store

The owner of a Maine bait and tackle shop says she found a rare calico-coloured lobster that was caught off the state's coast. Sarah Lane says the crustacean, covered in orange blotches, appeared in a crate of lobsters brought from Bristol last weekend. The University of Maine says the odds of finding one are about one in 30 million.

Lane named the lobster "Freckles." She says the lobster will be donated to the Maine State Aquarium in West Boothbay Harbor.

A calico lobster, top, and a normal lobster sit in a bin at Bethel Bait Tackle & More in Bethel, Maine.
COURTESY SARAH LANE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Trial. Nut plant owners approved tainted food, faked lab results: Lawyer

The owner of a Georgia peanut plant, where a deadly salmonella outbreak originated five years ago, approved sales of tainted food "whatever the risk," including shipments known to have tested positive for the bacteria and others sent with fake lab results and no real confirmation the products were safe to eat, a prosecutor told jurors during closing arguments in the food-poisoning trial Thursday.

Former Peanut Corporation owner Stewart Parnell and two co-defendants have been on trial in U.S. District Court since Aug. 1.

Investigators concluded nine people died from salmonella lurking in food traced back to the company's plant in rural Blakely, and 714 got sick. Experts say it's the first time food processors have stood trial in federal court in a food poisoning case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah

Teacher accidentally shoots own leg

A school teacher accidentally shot herself in the leg when a concealed weapon she was carrying discharged in a faculty bathroom shortly before classes started Thursday morning, officials said.

School District spokesman Ben Horsley said the teacher at a school, in Salt Lake City, Utah, was severely injured when the bullet pierced her leg. She was rushed to a hospital where she was in good condition and alert, Horsley said.

Utah is one of the few states that allow people with concealed weapons permits to carry guns in public schools. Teachers are not required to disclose they're carrying a weapon, and administrators are prohibited from asking. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sierra Leone doctor to be treated abroad for Ebola

Outbreak. Deadly virus has taken a heavy toll on health-care workers, leaving at least 135 of them dead

Health workers remove their protective clothes after carrying the body of a woman that they suspect died from the Ebola virus on Wednesday, in an area known as Clara Town in Monrovia, Liberia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another doctor from Sierra Leone who has tested positive for Ebola will be removed from the hard-hit country for medical treatment, an official said Thursday, making her the first Sierra Leonean citizen to be treated abroad.

Dr. Olivette Buck is the nation's fourth doctor to contract the disease — the three others all have died. Arrangements are being made to send her to another country for treatment, said Health Ministry spokesman Sidie Yahya Tunis.

The worst Ebola outbreak in history also has hit Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal, and has been blamed for more than 2,200 deaths across West Africa.

The disease is taking a heavy toll on health-care workers, whose jobs put them at high risk because Ebola is only transmitted through contact with the bodily fluids of people showing symptoms or dead bodies. More than 135 health workers have died in the outbreak, exacerbating shortages of doctors and nurses in countries that already had too few medical workers to begin with.

Sierra Leone and Liberia have been especially hard hit, and officials have warned that both countries could see a surge in cases soon. Sierra Leone is expecting to uncover potentially hundreds of new cases when volunteers go house to house looking for the sick during a three-day lockdown later this month. To keep up with the accelerating infection rate, Liberian Information Minister Lewis Brown told a news conference Thursday, the capital region alone needs 1,000 beds.

That squares with a World Health Organization estimate from earlier this week. The UN health agency said the county where Monrovia is located currently has only 240 beds, with 260 more on the way — only half of what's needed.

The tremendous fear surrounding the disease and the extreme measures used to contain it — such as cordoning off entire towns for days — has led to sharp criticism of Liberia's government and even calls for the president to step down. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Inspiration amongst the rubble

Palestinian artist Basel al-Maqousi took advantage of brief reprieves during the Gaza-Israel conflict earlier this summer to photograph the most devastated areas of the region. He then paired them with the world's most famous paintings by Monet, Cezanne and (seen here) Picasso. COURTESY BASEL AL-MAQOUSI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamas ready for direct talks with Israel

Ban lifted. Official for Palestinian Islamic group says it is willing to negotiate issues such as Gaza border crossing and prisoner release

A senior Hamas leader says the group is willing to talk directly to Israel, reversing a previous ban.

In an interview with Al Quds TV, Hamas No. 2 Musa Abu Marzouk said, "Hamas is willing to talk directly to the Israelis" over issues including Gaza border crossings and prisoner releases.

"Just as you negotiate with weapons you can also negotiate by talk," he said in a tape of the interview obtained by The Associated Press.

"Up till now our policy was no negotiation with (Israel), but others should be aware that this issue is not taboo."

His comments come two weeks after the end of a bloody war in the Gaza Strip, which Hamas has run since 2007.

Over the weekend the group came in for criticism from Western-backed Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, putting further pressure on it after the heavy losses it sustained during the fighting.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said he would not comment until Abu Marzouk's remarks are broadcast.

Israel has consistently said it will not talk directly to Hamas until the Palestinian Islamic group recognizes its right to exist and renounces violence.

During the interview Abu Marzouk gave no indication that Hamas was considering taking such steps. Rather, he insisted the reason for the change in policy reflected growing tensions with Abbas, whom Hamas believes is trying to reclaim control of Gaza.

"Hamas finds itself compelled to make this move when the natural rights of the people in Gaza come under pressure from the Palestinian Authority and the government," he said.

Israel and Hamas have held several rounds of indirect negotiations through Egyptian mediators in recent years, mainly over prisoner exchanges and cease-fire agreements.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza school raids

War crimes?

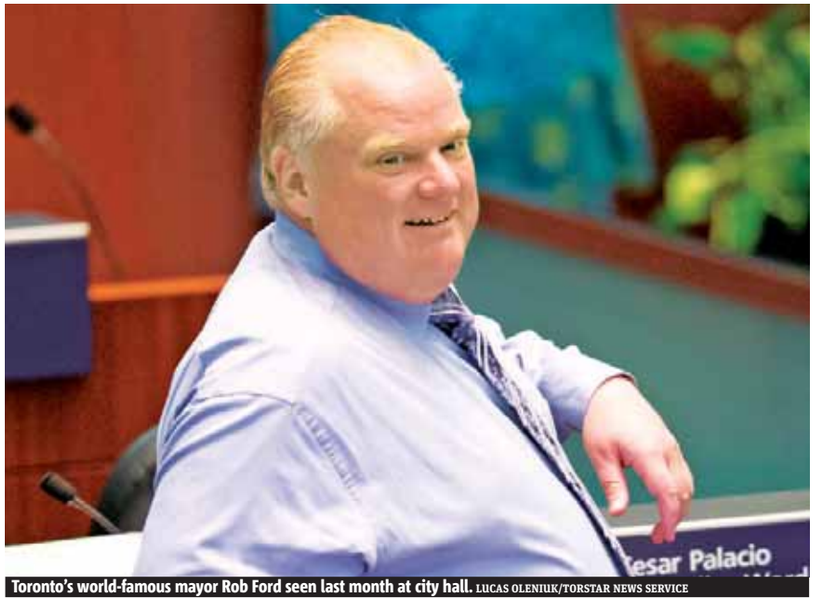
Leading rights group Human Right Watch (HRW) alleges Israel committed war crimes during this summer's Gaza war, saying it reached that conclusion after investigating three attacks on or near United Nations-run schools housing displaced Palestinians.

According to its investigation, based on field research and interviews with witnesses, the New York-based group said no military targets were apparent in the area and that some of the attacks were indiscriminate.

The war left more than 2,100 Palestinians dead, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials.

Israel argues the civilian death toll during the 50-day war was Hamas' fault, accusing the Islamic militant group of launching rockets — and drawing retaliation — from school yards, residential areas and mosques.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Toronto's world-famous mayor Rob Ford seen last month at city hall. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rob Ford's biopsy results in a week

Abdominal tumour. Toronto mayor's political future in limbo as he awaits results of a biopsy

Toronto's Mount Sinai hospital says the results of the biopsy of a tumour found in Mayor Rob Ford's abdomen will not be known for another week.

The 45-year-old politician was first hospitalized Wednesday after seeking treatment for "unbearable" abdominal pain.

Doctors found a "fair-sized" tumour in his abdomen.

Dr. Zane Cohen, a colorectal surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital, said Ford is resting comfortably and has some pain, for which he's receiving medication.

Ford has until 2 p.m. Friday to withdraw his name from the ballot should he decide to do so, while any new candidates have the same deadline to file their papers.

Ford had abdominal surgery in 2009 to remove a tumour on his appendix.

His father, Doug Ford Sr., died of colon cancer in 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MRI set for Friday

Friday is also the deadline for Ford to withdraw from the race for mayor, if he decides to, and also the deadline if his brother Doug decides to enter the race.

- A gastroenterologist from Australia said doctors are likely considering colorectal cancer.

Domestic assault

Rice zapped by his high school

Ray Rice's suburban New York high school has removed his NFL jersey from its wall of fame.

The Journal News reports that New Rochelle High School also removed a placard honouring Rice from a hallway.

The Baltimore Ravens released Rice, and the NFL suspended him indefinitely on Monday after video surfaced of him punching his then-fiancée. Athletic director Steve Young says removing the jersey sends a message: "Actions like this have consequences."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Great friends. South Korea's president to visit Canada later this month

South Korean President Park Geun-hye will make a state visit to Canada Sept. 20 to 22. It's the first such visit by a Korean president since 1999.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he and Park will discuss the Canada-Korea free trade agreement (tabled in the Commons in June), and developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Korea is a major Asia trading partner for Canada, with total merchandise trade between the two countries estimated at $10.8 billion in 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

South Korea's President Park Geun-hye. AHN YOUNG-JOON/CP/AP

ADVERTISING FEATURE

USED CARS TO BE SOLD FOR $1

Carl Holst, Sales Manager of Stampede Toyota, just announced plans to hold a One dollar used car and truck sales event **Taking place, Tomorrow Saturday Sept 13, 2014**. According to Mr. Holst record sales from the last few months have resulted in an overstock of trade-ins. "In the last three months our sales have increased at a tremendous rate", Holst said. "Now, we must reduce the number of cars and trucks on our used lot to a more manageable number. During this $1 sale every used car and truck will be sold for hundreds or thousands below its original price." Mr. Holst said. "In fact, cars that normally sell for five to eight thousand dollars will be sold for three to five thousand," Mr. Holst said. "Our customers will find these prices even lower than at wholesale auctions."

Auction bidding often inflates the true value of a car so you pay more. Here every car is on sale, first come first served and no bidding. It's the perfect opportunity to get a good quality used car at the lowest price possible, including cars for only One dollar. **All cars will be on display at Stampede Toyota on Barlow Trail, 2 blocks North of the Trans Canada Highway.** At 8:00 am all vehicles will be opened so that buyers may inspect the vehicles for one hour before the sale begins tomorrow at 8:00am when the prices are posted on the windshield you will be given the first opportunity to purchase the vehicle at the sale price. This innovative approach to selling used vehicles will make it easy and quick for anybody in the market for a good used vehicle to get a great car or truck at a very low price with no hassle.

One of Calgary's largest Toyota certified used vehicle dealers is overstocked and is forced to sell used cars and trucks for as low as $1, Saturday Sept 13, 2014 during a one-day sale event.

"Wholesale buyers will be represented to take trade-ins during the sale," Mr. Holst said. "We also have three business managers who will help buyers arrange low-cost financing. We've got over $10 Million Dollars in inventory to choose from. Our total inventory will be close to 600 new and used cars and trucks. We want to remind everyone that this is a **one-day sale** only. When our inventory has been reduced, we will remove the sale prices and return to normal operations. Since we are a local business we would like to give back to the community," Mr. Holst said. "We would rather allow local people to buy these overstocked vehicles than wholesale them at an auction." All cars will be reduced every hour and there will be 8 cars that will be reduced every hour until they get to $1. These special $1 sale cars are in a separate section at the front of the dealership. Due to the volume of sales during this event, please no telephone inquiries.

AMVIC Licensee

Out of touch ads. Scots' Yes independence support better mobilized online

When the campaign to keep Scotland in the United Kingdom launched a recent TV ad, the spot went viral — but for all the wrong reasons.

In a kitchen, a woman complains that while her husband can't stop talking about the independence referendum, she doesn't have time to think about voting because she's too busy with housework.

Within hours, spoof videos appeared online, mocking the perceived sexist tone.

"The tone of the whole video was completely outdated, sexist and insulting to women," said Sandra Geddes, a 33-year-old office worker who plans to vote "No" on independence.

In the battle of the ads in Scotland's independence debate, the Yes camp is winning — and that may be a factor in the surge that has given it a chance of winning on Sept. 18 after months trailing far behind.

While the Better Together campaign has been derided for old-fashioned, even patronizing ads, the breakaway side has actively engaged voters.

Much of the Yes side's success comes from their engagement of youth, utilizing social media to spread the word. The campaign's Twitter account — @YesScotland — has more than 81,000 followers, compared to 37,200 for the "No" movement. It's the same story on Facebook, where Yes Scotland has over 266,000 likes compared to Better Together's 188,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Yes supporter crashes a Labour Better Together rally in Glasgow, Scotland, on Thursday. Scotland is set vote for its independence Sept. 18. DANNY LAWSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Catalans monitoring Scots' independence

Tone-setting vote. As Scottish independence vote looms, Europe keeps a close watch on the bid's outcome

A week ahead of Scotland's vote to break away from the U.K., people wave estelada flags, a symbol of Catalonia's independence from Spain, in Barcelona. Separatists in northeastern Spain have encouraged thousands to protest and demand secession from Spain, a move the state deems illegal. MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of thousands of Catalans energized by Scotland's upcoming independence referendum protested Thursday for a secession vote aimed at carving out a new Mediterranean nation in what is now northeastern Spain, illustrating how the Scottish vote in just one week is captivating breakaway minded Europeans from Barcelona to Spain's Basque country, Belgium and Italy.

Sporting bright yellow and red shirts representing the colours of the Catalonian flag emblazoned with the phrase "Now is the time," they shouted "Independencia!" and crowded two avenues that look like a "V" from the air to signal their desire for a Catalonia independence referendum that the central government in Madrid insists would be illegal.

Just how many showed up was in dispute after the protest ended Thursday evening. Barcelona police said 1.8 million participated but the Spanish Interior Ministry's regional office in Catalonia put the number at no more than 525,000, among them retired hospital director and economist Lluis Enric Florenca.

"If the Yes wins in Scotland, and it looks like it will be close, and Europe accepts it, they will accept Catalonia, which is bigger, and in relation to Spain, stronger than Scotland in relation to England," said Florenca, 65. "Catalonia is potentially much more powerful."

Catalonia regional leader Artur Mas said his government is not wavering from plans to hold a Nov. 9 referendum in the region of 7.6 million people, even though experts say any attempt is sure to be blocked by Spain's constitutional Court. Mas has repeatedly said he will not call an illegal vote.

"This is a very powerful message we are sending to Europe and the world," Mas said. "Now is the moment to sit down and negotiate the terms for the Catalan people to be able to express themselves at the polls."

Polls have suggested that Scotland's independence vote on Sept. 18 is too close to call and that has captivated a wide variety of groups in addition to Catalan separatists.

"If Scotland votes Yes and the negotiation process goes smoothly, and Scotland gets into the EU quickly, that might boost secessionist support because it would show the risks of independence are lower," he said. "It could go the other way, if the transition involves a lot of cost."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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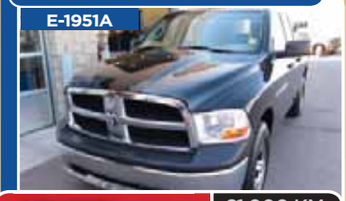

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WOOD AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

No shortage of can-do spirit during Kickstarter's first year

Happy anniversary. Crowdfunding website marks a successful Year 1 in Canada

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

One year, 3,650 projects, 239,591 backers and $24 million in pledges: That's the story of Kickstarter's first year in Canada.

Launched in the U.S. in 2009, the popular crowdfunding platform made itself available to Canuck fund-seekers on Sept. 9, 2013. Since then, the site has helped fund an average of 10 Canadian projects per day, ranging from a Corner Gas reboot to a high-tech hockey stick.

"When we launched ... we were available to anyone in the world in terms of backers, and early on Canada turned out to be a very active place where people were pledging money from," said Kickstarter spokesperson Justin Kazmark. "And Canada has a significant creative population, so expanding there was a natural fit."

The service has been a launching pad for Canadian companies, granting them access to international customers and capital. Although domestic support for Canadian projects is high, most ideas receive two-thirds of their funding from outside the country's borders.

"I think it signifies that internationally, people have an appetite for supporting creative ideas coming out of Canada," Kazmark said.

To date, the most-funded project on Canadian Kickstarter is Vanhawks' Valour bicycle, a "smart bike" made of carbon fibre and equipped with features like GPS and haptic feedback. The Ottawa-based company turned to Kickstarter last May and raised more than $820,000.

"We were out there looking for funding to launch our bike, and Kickstarter allowed us to take a peek into the market and prove there's a massive demand out there," said Vanhawks co-founder Ali Zahid. "It's going to change the whole ecosystem of how people get funded and start companies in Canada."

Although they believed in their product, Zahid and his colleagues were still shocked at how quickly their Kickstarter took off.

"It was a crazy experience," he said. "I didn't sleep for two weeks. We got so many press requests and questions that my phone died in the first 10 minutes."

Another Canadian success story is Aesthetec Studio's Little Robot Friends, a set of cute, anthropomorphic circuit boards that help teach people about electronics and computer programming. The project attracted more than 1,300 backers from 49 different countries, and raised more than $123,000.

Aesthetec's Mark Argo said that, like Vanhawks, Kickstarter allowed his company to gauge demand for their product, but more importantly, it let them bring that product to market in a way they were comfortable with.

"We wanted to do it right the first time, and worry about making money off it later," Argo said. "With a lot of tech products, the way you make money is to outsource as much as possible ... to places like China. But when you have this upfront source of risk-free money, it gives you the motivation — and the ability — to deliver the best thing you possibly can.

"And if that means using more expensive local labour and materials, then so be it."

As a result, every Little Robot Friend is hand-built in Toronto, using local materials from factories that Argo and his colleagues have visited.

Like Zahid, Argo believes Kickstarter can help Canadian companies achieve success without leaving home.

"There's tons of talented people here, but a lot of them have to flee the country to find opportunity," he said. "But we found that we can make something here locally in Canada, enjoy the benefits of living here and still reach a global community.... We might not be able to sell 50,000 robots in Canada, but spread that around the globe and I'm sure there's 50 niche communities willing to buy 1,000 robots."

How to kick-start your Kickstarter

metro AR **Canada's most-funded project is the Valour bicycle by Vanhawks. The bike, made of carbon fibre and featuring "performance tracking, security sensors and interactive feedback," raised $820,083. Scan the photo with your Metro News app to see the top 10 most-funded projects in Kickstarter's first year in Canada.** CONTRIBUTED

1 Do your homework. Before Vanhawks launched their Kickstarter campaign, company co-founder Ali Zahid said he spent three months immersed on the platform, analyzing what worked and what didn't. "Kickstarter became a religion," he said.

2 Make a video. "You don't need a video to launch a project, but most successful ones have a video," Kickstarter spokesman Justin Kazmark said, "often with the creator in front of the camera."

3 Tell a story that involves your backers. "Successful projects on Kickstarter, regardless of geography, tell a compelling story.... They articulate what you're trying to bring to life and how backers can join you on that journey," said Kazmark.

4 Be honest. "Our pitch wasn't some slick advertisement for a product. It was true to who we are," said Aesthetec Studio's Mark Argo. "We wanted to give The Vanhawks team kept a blog throughout the process and Zahid even offered his cellphone number to backers in case they had questions or suggestions. "I used to get calls at 3 a.m., but people loved it," he said.

5 Be prepared to follow through. "Make sure it's something you love, because if you do get backed, you have to make it," Argo said. off this feeling that we're a small group of passionate makers and that this is an idea that's important to us.... And afterwards a lot of people commented that they liked the tone of our pitch and our video."

In review

One year of quirky projects

Soviet Bus Stops

$51,831 raised. Vancouver photographer Christopher Herwig presents a collection of photos of Soviet-era bus stops.

Castor Toothpicks

$38,551 raised. Foodie-approved toothpicks featuring "gastronomic flavour pairings."

BRU-V Protection

$36,612 raised. This glass protects your beer from the flavour-destroying effects of sunlight.

Starwhal

$24,450 raised. A video game about narwhals fighting in space. Its subtitle is Just the Tip.

Half-Cat

$14,349 raised. A work of fiction about a famed scientist Erwin Hobbes takes on the phenomenon of rare bipedal cats.

Burnaby denies blocking survey work on pipeline

Dispute escalates after trees cut down.
Kinder Morgan wants National Energy Board to order city to allow access to mountain

A city worker sits in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, at the site where Kinder Morgan workers recently cut down trees. The city is seeking an injunction to prevent further damage to its trees and land. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The City of Burnaby, B.C., insists it's not attempting to block Kinder Morgan from conducting survey work related to the Trans Mountain pipeline, but says instead that it only wants its town bylaws followed.

Burnaby and Kinder Morgan have been escalating their dispute over the proposed expansion of the pipeline, with the city citing the company for cutting down trees on Burnaby Mountain, east of Vancouver.

The company has asked the National Energy Board to order Burnaby to stop blocking access to the site, pointing to another energy board ruling last month that said Kinder Morgan could proceed over the city's objections.

The city says in a letter to the energy board that it respects the company's rights under federal law, but it says the National Energy Board ruling doesn't exempt the company from complying with bylaws that protect its trees and parkland.

The city filed a lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court this week asking for an injunction, and it says the energy board should put the issue on hold until the court process plays out.

Burnaby has been a vocal opponent of the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline, particularly after the company changed its proposed route to tunnel through Burnaby Mountain, which is home to a conservation area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. school strike

Province may end teachers' strike

B.C.'s education minister is no longer ruling out back-to-work legislation as an option for ending the teachers' strike.

Peter Fassbender has repeatedly rejected asking the legislature to force a solution, but he now says the government has that ultimate ability.

He backed off the position he held for months, after a vote by teachers overwhelmingly in favour of binding arbitration, declaring they will start the school year if government accepts their plan.

The minister says he's still committed to getting a negotiated settlement and contends binding arbitration would compel the province to hike taxes.

Teachers' union leader Jim Iker says arbitration is the fairest way to get a contract, and he accuses the government of being the only thing standing in the way of getting children back in classrooms.

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[The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History]

Montgomery Watt

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[Muhammad at Madinah]

Karen Armstrong

"If we could view Muhammad as we do any other important historical figure we would surely consider him to be one of the greatest geniuses the world has known."

[Muhammad – A Biography of the Prophet]

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Customers shrug at latest data breach

'Here we go again.' Reaction to Home Depot's big breach is getting a small reaction from jaded consumers

Home Depot's data breach could wind up being among the largest ever for a retailer, but that may not matter to its millions of customers.

America's largest home-improvement chain on Monday confirmed a theft that could have gone back as far as April and affected customers who used credit and debit cards at nearly 2,200 of its U.S. and Canadian stores. While the scope of the hack is not yet known, there's speculation that it could be the biggest yet.

Home Depot joins a growing list of retailers that have had their data stolen. Perhaps the most high-profile of those previous hacks was at Target, which suffered profit and sales declines after shoppers fled following a breach that compromised 40 million debit and credit card accounts. Industry watchers are betting Home Depot will fare better with its customers.

"It's simply not a big issue with consumers," said Craig Johnson, president of retail consultancy Customer Growth Partners, noting that shoppers seem to be almost immune to the breaches now. "Everybody knows that this is not people's first rodeo."

Take Johnna Horn. She stopped shopping at Target for two months after its breach was disclosed. Yet when she heard the news about Home Depot, she wasn't alarmed.

"With Target, it was more shocking," said Horn, who lives in Wentzville, Mo. "With Home Depot, it's like, 'Here we go again.'"

To be sure, analysts say it's too early to estimate the impact the breach will have on Home Depot's business because there are many details that are unknown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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Natural gas: $3.84 US (-$0.11)
Dow Jones: 17,049.00 (-19.71)

Get those loonies ready; Dollarama to add more stores

Discount retailer Dollarama says it plans to stick with its winning formula as its expands to 1,200 stores over the coming years by not offering more lower-margin grocery or pharmaceutical items. "For me, the future is the present. I'm very happy with our offering today," CEO Larry Rossy said Thursday, during a conference call to discuss its second-quarter results. Dollarama reported its profit increased 15.3 per cent from a year ago to $68.8 million, on a 12-per-cent boost in sales. The Montreal-based company said same-store sales — a key retail measure that reflects sales at stores that have been open for at least a year — were up 4.2 per cent year-over-year. Nearly two-thirds of sales came from products priced higher than $1, up from 61.7 per cent a year ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC. Rogers on board with offering a smaller basic package to viewers

One of the country's biggest cable-service providers predicts a sea change in how Canadians get their TV programming, but rejects the idea of allowing viewers to pay for television channels one at a time.

Rogers Communications has told the country's broadcast regulator it agrees with a proposal to offer its customers a smaller basic service.

But it says the price for that service should not be capped and it should include channels from the major American TV networks, not just the Canadian ones.

Rogers' presentation to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission on Thursday highlighted the growing divergence among cable and satellite TV service providers on how to reshape the television landscape. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health. N.S. pharmacist RX: No more pop, sugary drinks sold at his store

A pharmacist in Cape Breton, N.S., is no longer selling soft drinks or other sugary beverages in his store, saying as a health professional he can't condone the sale of one of the top contributing substances to child obesity.

Graham MacKenzie announced the change Thursday on Facebook, saying it's time for him and his team at Stone's Pharmasave to back up the advice they give clients in one-on-one consultations.

MacKenzie said he'll be taking a look at everything he sells, including chocolate bars and chips, but said sugary drinks such as fruit juices and vitaminwater were first to go because of how widely parents — mistakenly thinking they're healthy — give them to kids.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO IN HALIFAX

Fair process?

China fines foreign businesses on monopoly charges

China on Thursday announced it will fine Audi US$40.5 million and Chrysler $5.2 million in a sweeping anti-monopoly probe of the auto industry that has prompted complaints foreign businesses are being treated unfairly.

Business groups say the secretive and abrupt way the investigations are conducted is alienating foreign companies, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said Beijing might be violating its free-trade commitments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To woo businesses

BlackBerry bets on biz customers, buys Movirtu

BlackBerry Ltd. says its acquisition of London-based Movirtu will give its business customers the tools to easily set up "virtual identities" for employees, with separate personal and corporate phone numbers on a single mobile device.

BlackBerry execs said the acquisition will address issues that arise when employees bring their own devices for work-related use, or when employees are allowed to use corporate devices for personal reasons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Employers will save

Ottawa cuts EI premiums for small businesses

Ottawa moved to cut employment insurance premiums for small businesses Thursday, touting it as an effort that will save employers more than $550 million over the next two years and help stimulate hiring.

But critics say if the federal government really wanted to see employment pick up in Canada, it should have made job creation a requirement of the tax credit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Are you still wandering how to carry that burden? It is important for you to know that there is somebody who cares for you and can bear it all as it is written, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (I Peter 5:7 NIV). Surrender your life to Jesus and He will take over your problems.
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THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

In world news: God looked down upon the Earth and said, "These people are crazy!"

1 Baby-in-waiting. Prince William once again implanted his majestic seed within the Duchess of Cambridge. "Li'l Willie" was bursting with excitement over Kate's fertile blessing. But what of the grand lady who suffers of morning infirmities no servant can unburden? Alas, when the sentiment prevails, she is left alone to toss the royal cookies. Will his graciousness be there to bind her noble tresses? Will his band of oppressive autocrats grant her the rightful leave of maternity? Sorry, I just get caught up in this game of thrones. #RoyalBaby

2 Getting served. Serena Williams joined the ranks of Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert by winning her 18th #GrandSlam on Sunday. The two legends speculated that Williams would continue to smash every record in tennis. I agree.

3 Knockout. Mike Tyson was in Toronto to promote his one-man show, The Undisputed Truth, but wasn't ready to face off with CP 24's Nathan Downer. From the bell, the host came out swinging, referring to the former champ as a convicted rapist. Tyson returned with a barrage of low blows, including unacceptable language on live TV. After the second warning, the towel was tossed and the man with the face tattoo was disqualified. Tyson received another blow with a poor showing at his debut, so the TKO goes to Downer, whose name has been uttered more in the last 24 hours than, well, ever.

4 Phablet Phever. Apple unleashed iPhone 6, and social media lit up with conflicting opinions about larger screen size. Then came the Apple Watch revelation, but techies say it's too small. I'm waiting for the day I'll need my Google Glass to see my Apple watch remind me to take my iPills so I can have sex with my iWife, smoke an e-cigarette, and search my iPad for schedules to program on Apple TV before I take out my e-teeth, get under my iBlanket and go to sleep.

5 Son of a ... Adam Cohen, son of Canadian music icon Leonard, releases his new CD this week. The singer-songwriter is his own artist, but the quality of his voice is unmistakably patrimonial. Recorded partly at dad's long-standing vacation home on the Greek island of Hydra, and at Adam's childhood home in Montreal, he called it, We Go Home. Such inspiration is not lost on me as this column was written both here and in my villa on Mount Olympus. Catch the title track on YouTube. #WeGoHome

6 Can we talk? There was little privacy surrounding the "private" funeral held for Joan Rivers last Sunday. And that's probably just how Joan would have wanted it. The memorial looked like the Tonys with appearances by Hugh Jackman, Bernadette Peters, and Whoopi Goldberg. Except for the collective realization the world had lost an icon so impactful, she was there the first time you, your children, AND your parents ever turned on a TV. She will be missed.

Let's hear it for New York

Street artist Thierry Guetta poses for a portrait in front of the mural that he installed on the facade of the Century 21 department store in New York City. The store faces the World Trade Center where the 9/11 anniversary ceremony was held Thursday. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9/11 remembered amid a changing ground zero

Americans marked the 13th anniversary Thursday of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, with a New York ceremony held in new surroundings.

For the first time, the new National September 11 Museum — which includes gut-wrenching artifacts and graphic photos of the attacks — is open on the attacks' anniversary. Fences have come down, integrating the site more fully with the streets, while completely opening it up to the public and camera-wielding tourists.

The ceremony itself would be familiar. A solemn reading of the names. Moments of silence to mark the precise times of tragedy. Stifled sobs of those still mourning.

But much has changed since that fateful day in 2001. A new mayor is in office, one far less linked to the attacks and their aftermath than his immediate predecessors. And a nearly completed One World Trade Center has risen 1,776 feet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Some people forget this is a cemetery. I would never go to the Holocaust museum and take a selfie."

Nancy Nee, whose firefighter brother, George Cain, was killed in the attacks

MetroTube

Fun with lights and gravity

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Fun fact: Did you know that OK Go's video antics were once referred to as Rube Goldberg Devices? Weird, right? Anyway, Japanese tech company au has stripped out all that whiz-bang rock 'n' roll to plug their new fibre optic Internet service with just such a contraption, one entirely powered by light — with an assist from gravity, of course. (au/YouTube)

SCREENGRAB

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A bear cub was filmed 'dancing' around a golf flag on a course in B.C. What was your finest run-in with a wild thing?

@CorrieBanman: My Dad reached out the car window to pet a big horned sheep. It didn't like that, reared back & rammed the side of our car.

@Iam_Canadian: I got chased by a Momma bear while tree planting. Ran, lost a boot, continued to run until I reached 4 wheeler.

Join in on the conversation @metropicks.

metro AR

SEE THE NEWS COME ALIVE

In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 22 in News, page 27 and 44 in Scene and page 53 in Sports.

To see these pages spring to life, download or update the Metro News app and follow these three easy steps:

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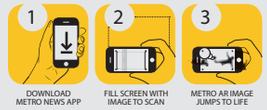

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Crime drama 'drops' the plot

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

The Drop. Tom Hardy and James Gandolfini bring strong, nuanced acting to their roles, but it's not enough to save a tired story that seems full of holes

metro AR Scan this photo with your Metro News app to watch a clip from The Drop, starring Tom Hardy and James Gandolfini. CONTRIBUTED

Richard: Steve, this is a boy-and-his-dog story, but it ain't Old Yeller.

Sure there are gun shots and a cute dog, but there is also a slow unveiling of the clues, red herrings and characters with shady pasts.

As Bob, Hardy is a cypher; kind to dogs, shy and lovesick, he's an average neighbourhood guy.

Except in this neighbourhood, average guys have pasts, and Hardy does a nice job of playing a guy who is trying to move on while the past tries to stop him in his tracks.

What did you think?

Steve: As the deadbeat bartender who may or may not be what he seems, Hardy certainly crafts a compelling character with a unique set of subtleties.

Even the gait of Bob's walk and the curious physicality of Hardy's character is distinguished and fantastically nuanced.

It's just too bad the story itself feels a bit too played out.

There's nothing quite fresh about the intertwining local gangsters and interlopers here.

Plus, a few plot ambiguities don't help keep the story clear. Or was that the red herrings?

RC: I thought of it as a slice of life, a slickly made look at the underbelly of crime, relationships and dog rearing.

Nice performances make up for some plot idiosyncrasies and the cute dog earns some goodwill for a story that doesn't so much comment on the condition of its characters as it does reveal it.

What did you think of Gandolfini in his final role?

SG: It's a bit of a bittersweet final curtain for Gandolfini — whose character is a bit morose.

But the late actor's presence is as bold as ever and, in scenes with Hardy, the two of them burn up the celluloid — especially in the movie's softer moments — as when Bob corrects the burly former bar owner about the proper pronunciation of "Chechen."

Surprisingly, the film is actually darkly humorous.

RC: Gandolfini does play to type as the Tony Soprano-Lite bar owner and while it is a part he could play in his sleep, there is something comforting about seeing him, one last time, as a conflicted tough guy. And you're right, the movie is darkly humorous, until it turns rather dark at the end.

SG: It was also a bit anticlimactic for me.

For all the mystery built up around the characters, the not-so-surprising twist at the end tries too conveniently to wrap everything together.

The film is entertaining enough but it doesn't quite add up.

Synopsis

Tom Hardy plays Bob Saginowski, a mild-mannered bartender at Cousin Marv's — a Brooklyn neighbourhood pub owned by the Chechnyan mafia. Marv's bar is sometimes used as a "drop," a place where gangsters secretly hide money until it is collected by their crime bosses. One night after work, Bob hears a dog whimpering from inside a garbage can. Lifting the lid, he finds a beaten pit bull puppy. He adopts the dog and romances Nadia, (Noomi Rapace), the woman who helps him rescue the animal, but soon a robbery, a scheme by his boss Marv (James Gandolfini) and the dog's former owner (Matthias Schoenaerts) force Bob to show his true colours. Steve Gow sits in for Mark Breslin this week.

- **Richard:** ●●●○○
- **Steve:** ●●●○○

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Elba wants to turn thriller genre on its head

No Good Deed. Actor's latest big role has him playing a creepy ex-con menacing a single mother — and he even scared himself

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Idris Elba is looking to challenge himself during our interview.

"Right now, I'm cracking open a beer with a lighter, which is hard to do, and at the same time sound genuinely interested in our conversation — which I am!" he insists. I'll have to take him at this word.

In Elba's latest, the thriller No Good Deed, he relishes playing mean and nasty as an ex-con menacing a single mother (Taraji P. Henson).

Why won't you leave this nice Taraji P. Henson alone?

Yeah, right? I watched it yesterday with an audience and I kept asking myself, "Why are you there? Leave her alone, she's so sweet!" My character has this sort of relentless drive, but you do find yourself going, "What is this guy's problem?" He's quite creepy, the character. I was watching it thinking, "Wow, I must be an actor because if I am really like that in real life, man, I wouldn't have any friends."

This has almost a nice throwback feel to it.

Yeah, it's a genre. It's quite reminiscent of old thriller films. I was a co-producer on this, and the director and I talked about that: "Let's remind audiences that they're in a thriller." You're going to hear thunder and you're going to hear mood music and stuff. For some reason we stopped making those types of films, but they work. They serve a particular purpose and they work.

Where are your tastes in genres and roles leading you at the moment?

I'm into being very varied, sort of shaking up genres. This film, for example. One could argue in America that this is penned as an African-American film, but it really isn't. It isn't a specific market film; it's just a film. And it's relatable to anyone that likes thrillers. My personal taste is to try to turn these genres on their heads and break down these sort of lines that we have that segment film one way or another. And also personally, I'm into really big, full characters at the moment.

That's what I want to develop. Iconic characters, like Mandela, like Luther.

Does the talk about how you should be the next James Bond still come up a lot?

Oh yeah, everyone keeps asking me about it. It's died down a bit, maybe it's starting to pass. But it's still just a rumour, unfortunately.

But you're going to be more Luther, right?

Yeah man, I'm definitely trying to do that. That's something that's happened over the last few days, where I've been with Neil (Cross, the show's creator) and we've discussed it in depth. We're going to move forward and try to pull off this two-hour special for TV.

Idris Elba stars in No Good Deed, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Sequel. Star-studded cast hopes to recreate the magic of Now You See Me

Jesse Eiseinberg is returning for another round of magic in Now You See Me 2. CONTRIBUTED

With over $350 million in revenues worldwide, Now You See Me was one of the surprise hits of the summer 2013 box office. The follow-up, Lionsgate announced, is scheduled to open on June 10, 2016.

Directed by Louis Leterrier, Now You See Me follows a team of four magicians known for performing international bank heists live on stage and transferring the proceeds to the audience.

Fans can look forward to seeing more of the same all-star cast, as Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eiseinberg, Dave Franco, Isla Fisher, Mark Ruffalo, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine are all expected to return for the sequel.

Written like the first movie by Ed Solomon and Peter Chiarelli, Now You See Me 2 is to be helmed by John M. Chu (G.I. Joe: Retaliation) and produced by Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci and Bobby Cohen.

Lionsgate also revealed Dec. 25, 2015 as the release date for Dirty Grandpa, the comedy starring Robert De Niro and Zac Efron. AFP

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Kids & Family

Dolphin Tale 2

Director. Thomas Carter

Stars. Jim Caviezel, Michael Chiklis

Dolphin Tale 2 continues the story of Winter, a dolphin whose miraculous rescue and recovery (thanks to a groundbreaking prosthetic tail) made her a symbol of hope and perseverance to people around the world and inspired 2011's Dolphin Tale. The film reunites Harry Connick, Jr., Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson, Nathan Gamble, Cozi Zuehlsdorff, Austin Stowell, and, of course, Winter as herself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 73% **Audience:** + 85%

Thriller

No Good Deed

Director. Sam Miller

Stars. Taraji P. Henson, Idris Elba

Terri is a devoted wife and mother of two, living an ideal suburban life in Atlanta when Colin, a charming but dangerous escaped convict, shows up at her door claiming car trouble. Terri offers her phone to help him but soon learns that no good deed goes unpunished as she finds herself fighting for survival when he invades her home and terrorizes her family.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** + 90%

Mystery

The Captive

Director. Atom Egoyan

Stars. Ryan Reynolds, Mireille Enos

Years after his young daughter vanished without a trace from the back seat of his truck, a father receives newfound hope that she is alive and being held in captivity in this drama from Academy Award-nominated director Atom Egoyan. Matthew (Ryan Reynolds) and Tina (Mireille Enos) were a happy couple before their daughter Cassandra was taken from them.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 15% **Audience:** + 92%

The doctor is in ... his taxi cab

Cabbie conundrum. Comedy takes a lighthearted look at a serious problem that highly educated immigrants across Canada face

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In Dr. Cabbie, Vinay Virmani stars as Deepak, a man from New Delhi, who arrives in Toronto with a degree in medicine and dreams of following in his MD father's footsteps. Instead he is met with bureaucracy and frustration. The medical establishment in Canada doesn't accept his hard-earned degree and decree that he won't be able to practice medicine in his new country.

Virmani was inspired to write the story after taking a cab ride in Toronto.

"When you get into a cab, you form that Indian-to-Indian thing," he says. "The driver is like, 'Where are you from?'

"Canada."

'No, where are you really from?'

"It always starts off like that. Then he told me his story. I was really moved by it because here's a guy who was young and naïve when he came here, very passionate about being a doctor, and had that dream shattered.

"Then I heard about a Chinese dentist in Vancouver who was doing dental work for families who couldn't afford dental. They called him the Bedroom Dentist. So all these things played in my head."

In the film, a friend (Big Bang Theory's Kunal Nayyar) gets Deepak a job driving a cab, and one eventful night he meets Natalie, the girl of his dreams (Adrianne Palicki), and delivers her baby in the back of the hack.

When a video of the birth goes viral he becomes a something of a sensation. Soon people are flagging his taxi, looking for medical treatment.

With a thriving practice on wheels, he doles out medical advice and prescription drugs to customers from the back of his cab.

"If somebody told me a cabbie delivered a baby in a cab I would want to see that," he says.

"I would want to see how he did it. It's not far fetched to believe a video like that would go viral."

The movie is a broad comedy, but one with serious underpinnings.

"Right now we do have a doctor shortage in this country, we do have qualified PhDs not only driving cabs, but doing all sorts of work," he says, "and I really hope the movie sheds light on that, but in a fun, comedic way.

"I hope we've given integrity to the issue.

"Through the fun and games and the loud characters and situations, we say a doctor is a doctor is a doctor — that the Hippocratic Oath does not change just because you cross a border."

Vinay Virmani stars in Dr. Cabbie, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

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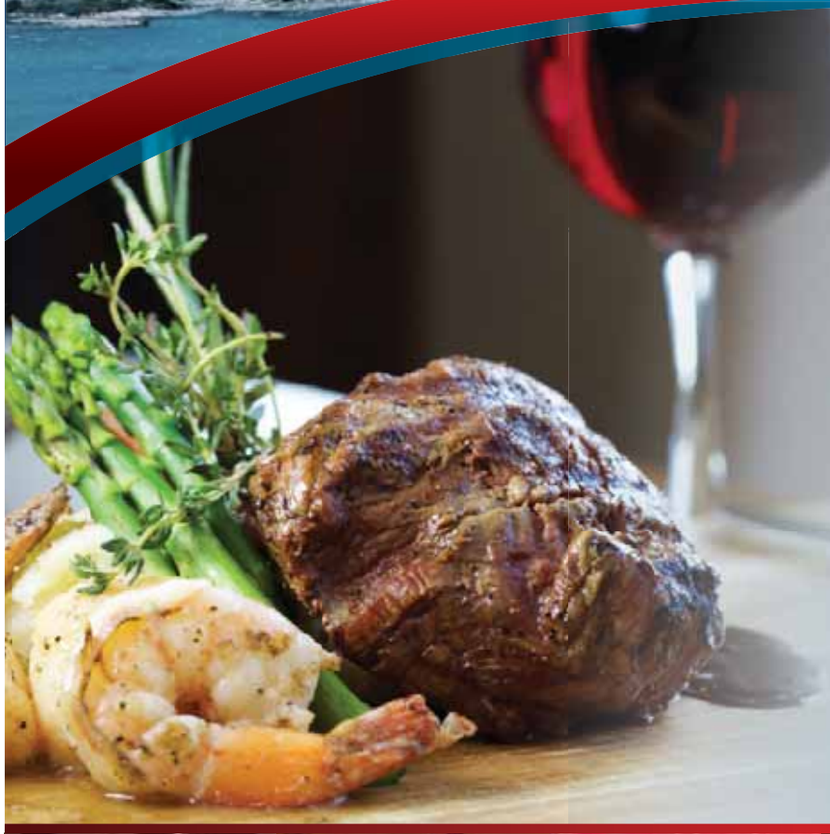

BANQUET & CONFERENCE

Alberta's premier and newest destination for conventions, tradeshows, weddings, and special events. We offer over 32,000 square feet of modern event space and can accommodate groups from 3 to 2,400 attendees. From large corporate conventions and conferences to elegant weddings, the Grey Eagle takes care of your needs throughout your time with us.

- 8 convertible meeting and event rooms
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Decorated in stylish colour tones allowing the space to match any design requirements, converts from a state of the art venue for concerts and performances seating up to 2,400 people, to a professional convention floor. The incredible sound and lighting appeal to world class touring performers. The Centre has played host to elegant dinners that can seat up to 1,400 guests. With professional staff and a catering team with a keen eye for details, we will insure flawless execution for your event. Event room diagrams can be digitally created to allow our clients to see their precise room design and layout.

GUEST ROOMS

Discover rest and relaxation. Whether traveling for business or pleasure, we will ensure provides you with an escape from a busy day. Complimentary hot deluxe breakfast. Then, the day is yours to enjoy at work or play.

- Complimentary hot breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- 47"inch LED HD TV
- iPod docking station
- Individual climate control
- In-room safe
- Large windows with breath-taking views

GREY EAGLE RESORT FACILITIES

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- World class Concerts and Performances
- Modern
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- Outdoor Hot Tub
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- Gift shop
- Complimentary parking

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For more information email:
Combinedchristmas@greyeaglecasino.ca

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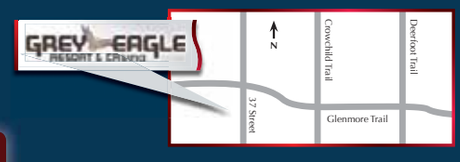

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., SEPT. 12 TO THURS., SEPT. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

22 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-7:20-9:55
Begin Again (14A) Fri-Thu 3:55-7:10
Chef (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-9:50
Edge of Tomorrow (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:05-10
The Fault in Our Stars (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-6:55
Get On Up (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-9:35
The Grand Seduction (PG) Fri-Thu 4-7:15
Maleficent (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:40
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Fri-Thu 1:25
The Purge: Anarchy (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-9:50
Sex Tape (18A) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:10-10:05
Tammy (14A) Fri-Thu 4:10-7:25-9:45
Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:50-8:15
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:35

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

As Above/So Below (14A) Fri-Sun 5:10-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 7:35-10
Dial M for Murder 3D (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) No Passes Fri 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:25 No Passes Sat 11-1:30-4:05-6:45-9:25 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:25 No Passes Wed 4:05-6:45-9:25 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
The Drop (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:55-4:30-7:05-9:40 No Passes Wed 4:30-7:05-9:40 No Passes Thu 1:55-4:30-7:05-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
The F Word (14A) Fri 2:25-4:50-7:20-10:15 Sat 7:20-10:15 Sun 4:50-7:20-10:15 Mon 1:55-4:30-7:20-10:15 Tue 1:55-4:30 Wed 1:55-4:30-10:15 Thu 1:55-4:30-7:20-10:15
The Giver (PG) Fri-Thu 4:55-7:15-9:30 Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Sun 1 Mon-Thu 1:35
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:50-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10-10
How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 2
How to Train Your Dragon 2 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 2:30 Mon-Thu 4:35
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:45 Mon-Wed 3:40-6:40-9:45 Thu 3:40-6:40
If I Stay (PG) Fri-Wed 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:35 Thu 1:25-4:10-6:55
Last Night of the Proms Live: BBC Proms 2014 (STC) Sat 12:30
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:20-7:55-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:20-7:55-10:30
The Maze Runner (PG) No Passes Thu 10
National Theatre Live: A Streetcar Named Desire (STC) Tue 7
No Good Deed (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 3-5:15-7:30-9:55
The November Man (14A) Fri 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05 Sat 11:15-2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05 Sun-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05
Planes: Fire & Rescue (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45 Mon-Thu 2:45
Shrek Forever After (PG) Sat 11
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:35 Mon-Thu 2:35
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 5-7:40-10:10
This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Thu 9:35

The Captive. CONTRIBUTED

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Boyhood (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:40-5:20-9 Mon-Thu 7:50
The Captive (14A) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 6-8:40
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:10-9
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
A Most Wanted Man (14A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:30-9:30 Mon-Tue 5:50-8:30 Thu 5:50-8:30
The Trip to Italy (14A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

As Above/So Below (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:30 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:30 Thu 7:30
The Captive (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:35 Mon 4:10-7-9:35 Tue 4:10-7 Wed 4:10-7-9:35 Thu 4:10-7 Tue 9:35 Thu 9:35
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri 1:10-4-6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 10:25-11-1:10-4-6:40-9:15 Mon-Wed 4-6:40-9:15 Thu 4-6:40-9:30
The Expendables 3 (PG) Fri 9:10 Sat-Sun 10:50-9:10 Mon-Wed 9:10
Finding Fanny (STC) Fri 12-5-9 Sat 5-9 Sun 12-5-9 Mon-Thu 5-9 Sat 12
Goreyan Nu Daffa Karo (STC) Fri-Sun 1-4:30-8 Mon-Thu 4:30-8
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri 12:30-3:20-6:45 Sat-Sun 10:45-12:30-3:20-6:45 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:45
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10-9:55
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:40
If I Stay (PG) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:15-9:50
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Little Terrors (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:50-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20-10
Lucy (14A) Fri-Wed 9:30
Mary Kom (PG) Fri-Sun 2-6-9:20 Mon-Thu 6-9:20
The Maze Runner (PG) Thu 10:10
The Maze Runner: The IMAX Experience (PG) Thu 10
No Good Deed (STC) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:25
The November Man (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3-6:10-9:05 Mon-Thu 3-6:10-9:05

WIN $10,000 AT WORK
THE WORKDAY BONUS PAY
STARTS MONDAY @ 8:45am
95.9 KiSS today's best music
No purchase necessary. Contest closes October 31st, 2014 at 3:45pm (MT) or in the event $10,000 is won by a single entrant. Prize value ranges per entrant. Some conditions apply. Open to residents of Alberta, over the age of 18, residing in the broadcast radius of the station. Mathematical skill-testing question must correctly be answered to win. Some entry conditions apply. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Details and contest rules at kiss959.com

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri 1:45-4:45 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:45-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:45
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 7:25-9:55
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3-6:15-9 Mon-Wed 3-6:15-9 Thu 3-6:15
This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Thu 9
When the Game Stands Tall (PG) Fri 12:10-3:10-6:20 Sat-Sun 10:30-12:10-3:10-6:20 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:20

Landmark Cinemas 10 Shawnessy & EXTRA Calgarytudio, 100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

The Captive (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 6:50-9:40
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) No Passes Fri 1-4-7-9:45 No Passes Sat 10:15-1-4-7-9:45 No Passes Sun-Wed 1-4-7-9:45 No Passes Thu 1-4-7-10
The Drop (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:40-10:30
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) No Passes Fri 12:15-3:20 No Passes Sat 10:30-12:15-3:20 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:15-3:20
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:50-7:20-10:15 Thu 10:15 Thu 12:40-3:50-7:20
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:50
If I Stay (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:20-3:10-6:30-9:20 No Passes Wed 6:30-9:20 No Passes Thu 12:20-3:10-6:30
Let's Be Cops (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:30
The Maze Runner (PG) No Passes Thu 10:15
No Good Deed (STC) No Passes Fri 7:45-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:10 No Passes Fri 1:40-4:40
The November Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:30 No Passes Wed 10:20
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) No Passes Fri 1:30-4:20 No Passes Sat 10:45-1:30-4:20 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:30-4:20
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 7:10-10
This Is Where I Leave You (14A) No Passes Thu 9:50

Globe Cinema 617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

(STC) Thu
Blue and Not So Pink (STC) Thu 6:30
Love & Engineering (STC) Fri 7
Night Moves (14A) Fri 7-9:10 Sat 1-7 Sun 1-3:10-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Peruchazhi (PG) Sat 3
Zulu (18A) Fri 9:20 Sat 1:10-7:10-9:20 Sun 1:10-3:20-7:10-9:20 Mon-Wed 7:10-9:20

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

As Above/So Below (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:25-7:50-10:20 Mon-Wed 2:50-5:25-7:50-10:20 Thu 2:50-5:25-7:55-10:20
The Captive (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:10-10
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25 Mon-Wed 1:05 Dawn of the Planet of the Apes 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:25-7:25-10:25 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:05-10:05 Wed-Thu 4:05-10:05
Dial M for Murder 3D (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Dolphin Tale 2 (G) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Sat 11:10-1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Wed 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:40 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40
The Drop (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Mon 2:10-4:50-7:20-10:10 No Passes Tue-Wed 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Thu 2:10-4:50-7:20-10:10
E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (STC) Mon 7:30 Thu 7:30
Frank Miller's Sin City: A Dame to Kill For 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15 Mon-Tue 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15 Wed 5:30-8-10:30 Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15
The Giver (PG) Fri-Wed 7:15-9:45 Thu 6:45
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:20
Guardians of the Galaxy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 1:05-4-6:50-9:50 Thu 1:05-4-6:50
Hercules 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 2:55-5:30-8-10:30 Sun 3:20-5:40-8:05-10:30 Mon-Tue 4:15-7:05-9:55 Wed 4:15-7:25-9:55 Thu 4:15-7:05-9:55
How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri 1:10-4:05-7-10 Sat 4:55-7:45-10:30 Sun 3:35-7-10 Mon 1:10-4:05-10 Tue 1:10-4:05 Wed 1:10-4:05-10 Thu 4:05-10
If I Stay (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Last Night of the Proms Live: BBC Proms 2014 (STC) Sat 12:30
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:50-10:30
Lucy (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:10-5:30-7:55-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:25-7:25-9:55
The Maze Runner: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 10
National Theatre Live: A Streetcar Named Desire (STC) Tue 7
No Good Deed (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20
The November Man (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:20-5-7:45-10:25 Mon 2:20-5-7:45-10:25 Tue 1:50-4:30-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 2:20-5-7:45-10:25
Planes: Fire & Rescue (G) Fri-Sun 12:25 Mon-Thu 1:30
Shrek Forever After (PG) Sat 11
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5 Mon-Thu 2:30-5
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 7:40-10:10
This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Thu 9

Plaza Theatre 1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

The F Word (14A) Fri 7 Sat 2-7 Mon 7 Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Snowpiercer (14A) Fri 9 Sat 4:30-9 Sun-Mon 9 Wed 9:15 Thu 9
Sunridge Spectrum
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200
As Above/So Below (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4-7:25-9:55 Mon-Wed 3:40-6:50-9:25 Thu 3:40-6:50
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 7:55
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Sat 11-1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Sun 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:30-4:10-7-9:40 No Passes Wed 4:10-7-9:40 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:10-7-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Double DI Trouble (PG) Fri-Sun 3:15-6:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:15-7:30
The Expendables 3 (PG) Fri-Sun 4:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 4-9:20
Finding Fanny (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-3:45-6:30-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:15
Goreyan Nu Daffa Karo (STC) Fri-Sun 2:05-5:30-9 Mon-Thu 2:25-6-9
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50 Mon-Thu 3
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:45-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:35
How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG) Fri 2 Sat 11-2 Sun-Thu 2
How to Train Your Dragon 2 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 5 Mon-Thu 4:55
If I Stay (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:10-6:45-9:45 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:20-6:55-9:30 Thu 1:45-4:20-6:55
Into the Storm (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-7:10 Mon-Thu 1:30-7
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:20
Mary Kom (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:40-8:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-8
The Maze Runner (PG) No Passes Thu 10
No Good Deed (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:05-4:25-7:10-9:40
The November Man (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:45
Shrek Forever After (PG) Sat 11
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:45
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45
This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Thu 9:30

Westhills 10 165 Stewart Green

Boyhood (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:10-8 Mon-Thu 4:50-8:30
The Captive (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 4-6:50-9:30
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:40-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:55-6:35-9:15
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30 Mon-Thu 4:05
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:25-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35
The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:45 Sat 3:25-6:45-9:45 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50
Last Night of the Proms Live: BBC Proms 2014 (STC) Sat 12:30
Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri 12:45-3:25-7:25-10:10 Sat 12:45-4:30-7:25-10:10 Sun 12:45-3:25-7:25-10:10 Mon-Tue 6:45-9:20 Wed 9:20 Thu 6:45-9:20
Magic in the Moonlight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:55-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:40-9:10
No Good Deed (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-3:35-7:30-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20-6:45-9:45
The November Man (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05 Mon-Thu 4:30
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:45-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40

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Young Frankenstein. After 40 years, comedy classic remains popular

Mel Brooks THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Young Frankenstein is pushing 40, but is by no means over the hill.

The film's writer-director Mel Brooks and actresses Cloris Leachman and Teri Garr gathered at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences this week for a 40th-anniversary screening of their comedy classic.

As they posed for photos, Brooks and Leachman flanked Garr, who was in a wheelchair. Garr has long battled multiple sclerosis and also suffered a brain aneurysm in 2006. Garr looked and sounded robust as she effortlessly traded barbs with Leachman and Brooks during a panel discussion.

As spirited as the event was, it also seemed a tad bittersweet for the 88-year-old Brooks, who was quick to mention cast members not in attendance.

"Well, you know, a lot of them have gone," he said in an interview. "Marty (Feldman), Madeline (Kahn), Peter Boyle is gone.

Gene Wilder, the film's co-writer and star, couldn't attend the screening. He sent a note that was read to the sell-out crowd of 1,000 fans cramming the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater — a clear sign of the movie's continued popularity.

Produced for just under $3 million, Young Frankenstein was released in December 1974 and went on to amass more than $85 million at the domestic box office alone ($372 million adjusted for inflation, according to the Box Office Mojo website).

The film, both an homage to and sendup of director James Whale's 1931 screen adaptation of author Mary Shelley's horror novel Frankenstein, also inspired a Broadway musical and has been one of the all-time bestsellers since the dawn of home video.

A 40th-anniversary Blu-ray edition was released Tuesday.

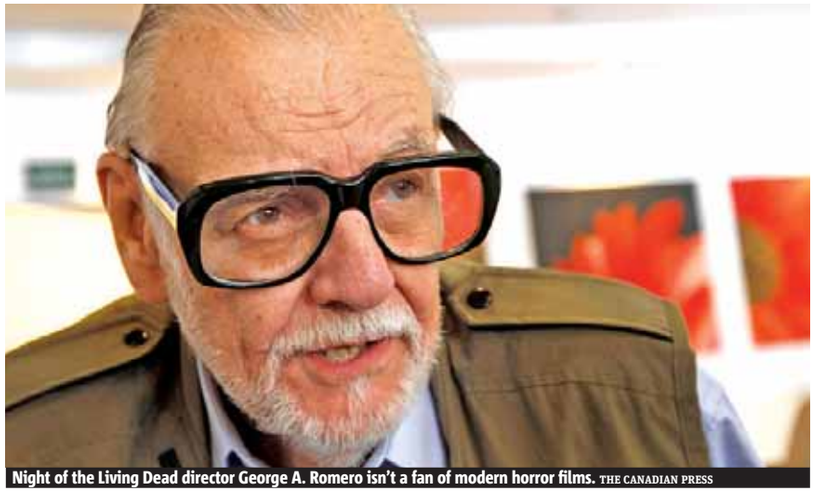
Brooks has logged seven decades of work as a professional entertainer, including the movie blockbuster Blazing Saddles and the Tony-winning musical The Producers.

As for his legacy? Brooks says he's hoping to be "remembered as a short, handsome, terrific dancer, wonderful filmmaker."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Living Dead director not a big zombie fan

George Romero. Film pioneer says very few modern horror movies are worth their salt


Night of the Living Dead director George A. Romero isn't a fan of modern horror films. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What scares George A. Romero, the director credited with creating the modern zombie horror genre with his landmark Night of the Living Dead?

Not much, but he's pretty clear that current horror movies aren't rattling him.

There are "very few horror films that I think are worth their salt," says Romero, who has directed several other Dead movies as well as Creepshow and the Stephen King-inspired Monkey Shines, among others.

"Oddly, I'm not a big horror fan," he says. His favourite movie is, in fact, 1951's fantasy opera The Tales of Hoffmann.

"I like the oldies," he says. "I find that the craftsmanship ... the amount of time that they had to shoot them, it just makes me drool."

Romero says he's never done a movie just for the sake of being horrifying.

"The horror films that I've made have been satirical in one way or another, or political, and I really think that's the purpose of horror. I don't see that happening very often."

Romero's Night of the Living Dead was shot for $114,000 in black and white in 1968. Considered the father of the modern zombie flick, its tale of people besieged by shambling, grunting reanimated corpses is now considered a landmark film. It's been endlessly examined for its social and political messages.

It is even in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art, where it was screened in May with the warning, "Attendees are reminded: NO BITING IN THE AUDIENCE."

Romero will be a guest of honour at this weekend's Montreal Comiccon, kicking off his appearance with a screening of Night of the Living Dead on Friday.

Fans won't just be saluting his cinematic legacy. He's also in the midst of writing Empire of the Dead, a 15-issue comic book series for Marvel.

The filmmaker, who points out he never called his monsters zombies, laments the trend to big-budget special effects-driven movies about the undead.

He is not a fan of such flicks as World War Z, which depicts a more nimble version of the creatures.

He also declined a chance to direct an episode of the TV drama The Walking Dead, calling it a "soap opera."

Romero believes Night of the Living Dead has endured because it has a solid story.

"And it's not about the zombies," he explains. "The zombies could be anything. They could be any disaster."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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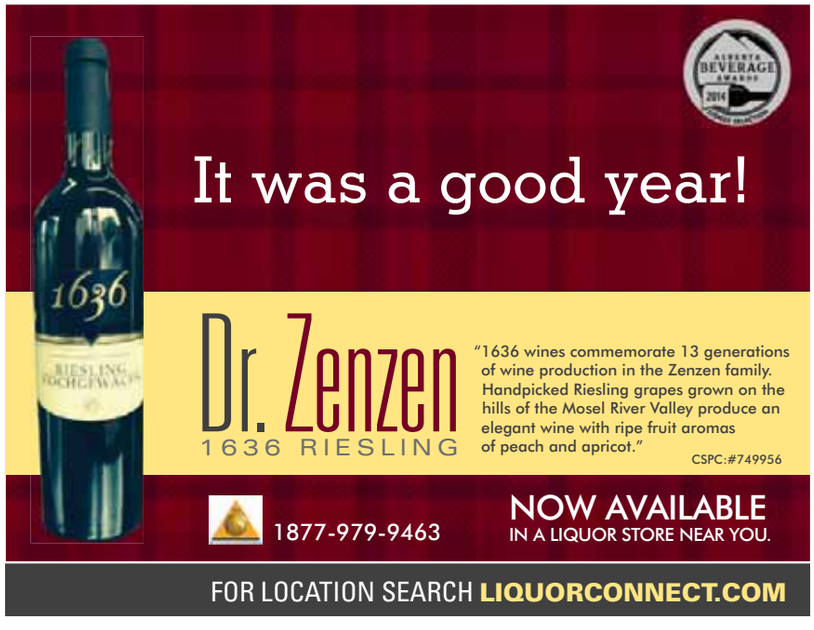

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Zachary Quinto and Brian Cox join TV drama The Slap

Epic family showdown. Aussie hit show is being adapted by creator of Brothers & Sisters

Zachary Quinto will co-star as Harry in The Slap. AFP

Zachary Quinto, the Heroes and Star Trek icon, will co-star with Emmy Award winner Brian Cox in an eight-episode TV drama centred around the admonishment of a troublesome child.

Quinto will play Harry, father of a teen son, "perennially angry but seemingly pleased with his life," as The Hollywood Reporter puts it, and a man who ends up slapping another family's kid.

Cox becomes Manolis, "stern yet magnanimous," a traditional and benevolent patriarch who tends to assume a peacemaking role.

Over the course of its run, the slap in question leads to a conflict of epic proportions as family secrets are dragged out of the closet and the whole affair threatens to destroy Harry and his extended family.

The pair are additions to a cast that already includes Mary-Louise Parker (The West Wing, Weeds) and Peter Sarsgaard (Shattered Glass, The Killing).

Sarsgaard is to play Hector, the main character and host of a social event at which the slap occurs, with Parker as his wife. Cox's Manolis would be Hector's own father.

NBC is to carry the show, having it adapted from an Australian original by scriptwriter Jon Robin Baitz, creator of 2006-2011 series Brothers & Sisters. AFP

Stephen King-inspired pilot. CBS adapts another of horror author's stories

Stephen King. AFP

Following the success of Under the Dome, a Stephen King-based storyline, CBS is moving forward with The Things They Left Behind, adapted from a short story by the bestselling author.

The pilot is produced by Greg Berlanti, creator of Arrow and The Flash.

Based on Stephen King's story, The Things They Left Behind is narrated by a man whose decision to take the day off work on Sept. 11, 2001 saved his life. A year after the World Trade Center attacks that took the lives of his colleagues, objects that once belonged to them start mysteriously appearing around the protagonist's apartment.

Details on the cast and production dates have not been announced. AFP

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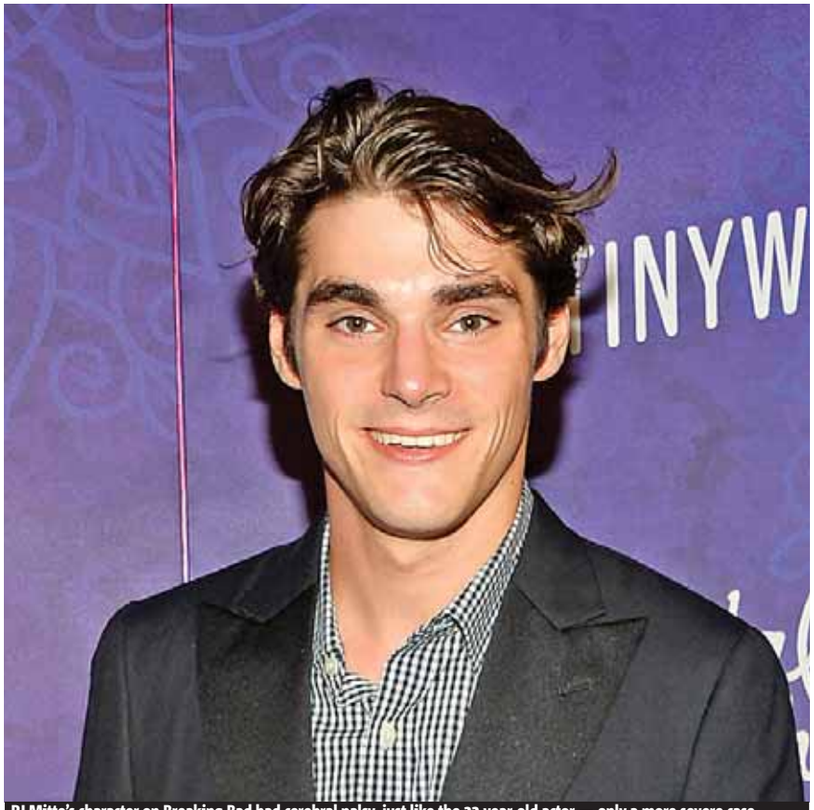

RJ Mitte's character on Breaking Bad had cerebral palsy, just like the 22-year-old actor — only a more severe case, requiring Mitte to learn to walk on crutches and slow his speech for the role. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Breaking Bad star Mitte brings realism to disabled characters

Typecasting. Actor with cerebral palsy says he learns from roles that reflect his reality

For RJ Mitte, playing Walter White Jr. in AMC's Breaking Bad was art imitating life.

Like the 22-year-old actor, his character had cerebral palsy — just a more severe case, requiring Mitte to learn to walk on crutches and slow his speech for the role. Mitte says he also had to revisit some of the challenges he faced growing up, which served as "a great reminder" that helped him win the part.

"The past does haunt you, but it haunts you for a reason: To remind you of the mistakes and actions you've made along the way and you have to grow from those actions," he said.

Mitte says those experiences enabled him to bring something to the role that others couldn't.

"My disability has given me so many things that people will never understand unless you have it," he said in a recent interview. "Unless you've been through the physical therapy, unless you've been (through) the sweat, the tears, the family problems, the family struggles, but wondering how you're going to get that HMO, wondering how you're going to get those medical bills. You develop a different mentality and you develop a different look at how the world sees you and how you see the world." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Also true to character

Mitte isn't alone in winning roles that reflect his life: In his recently cancelled sitcom, Michael J. Fox's title character had Parkinson's disease, as he does, and both Glee and American Horror Story feature actresses with Down syndrome.

- Since the Breaking Bad finale, Mitte has played a wheelchair-bound character who suffered a spinal cord injury.
- He says other roles he's taken on include that of a young man with muscular dystrophy and another where he was "a bit mentally unstable."

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Yes, Richards did write a children's book

Gus & Me. The wild man of the Rolling Stones has written a touching kid's book about his granddad

There's one person who knew Keith Richards would become Keith Richards: his grandfather.

The Rolling Stone said Augustus Theodore Dupree introduced him to the guitar and taught him about music as a child growing up in England.

"I think in a way he sort of had plans for me I wasn't aware of," Richards said. "He turned me on to the guitar and he did it in a subtle way."

The rock icon details his relationship with his grandfather in Gus & Me, his children's book released Tuesday.

"He was a saxophone player. He got gassed in the First World War and he couldn't blow anymore, so he went to fiddle. He was playing way into his 60s — so am I," 70-year-old Richards said, laughing.

Keith Richards with his daughter Theodora Richards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richards has four children and five grandchildren. His daughter Theodora Dupree Richards — named after Gus — worked on the illustration for the book.

In a recent interview he chatted about his book.

Why did you decide to write this book?

My publishers first came up with this idea. They said, "There's certain chapters about your grandfather that could make a great children's book." Children's book? This is not my line (laughs) ... And just about that same time my eldest daughter ... she said, "Guess what?" And I know that look in a woman's eyes. "Don't tell me you're pregnant, which means fifth grandchild." ... I thought, "Hey, there's something to be said for this" and I've always wanted to give my ol' grandfather Gus, bless him, a little more memorial than he's had.

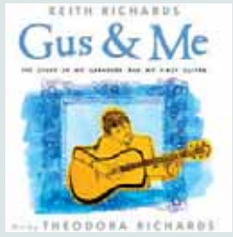
Your 2010 memoir, Life, was a commercial and critical success. Was there pressure to match it with Gus & Me?

The initial idea did come from the publishers, so you know, "Maybe Keith can sell a few more books." That's their business after all. Nine times out of 10, I would have said forget about it. I'm not going there. But because of the circumstances and having another grandchild, everything was sort of falling into place. I said, "Damn it. Go for it."

Do you want to write more?

I don't know. There's been plenty of talk about doing volume two (to Life) because a lot of stuff got left out. I may save that for a little later ... I had no intention of doing Life, but they kept bugging me. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gus & Me synopsis



Long before there was a band, there was a boy: a young Keith Richards, who was introduced to the joy of music through his beloved granddad, Theodore Augustus Dupree, affectionately known as "Gus," who was in a jazz big band and is the namesake of Keith's daughter, Theodora Dupree Richards. This unique autobiographical picture book honours the special bond between a grandfather and grandson and celebrates the artistic talents of the Richards family through the generations.

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The acoustic sound of an emerging talent, another soundtrack tune from an enigmatic veteran and mourning over a game of wall ball

Cry Cry Cry/ Scott Helman

Check out this new Toronto singer-songwriter who landed a new deal with Warner Music Canada. With a debut EP entitled Songs for Friends due next month, Helman has been road-testing some of this new material.

Give Us a Kiss/ Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds

Nick's lightly fictionalized new movie, 20,000 Days on Earth — winner of some big awards at Sundance this year — is set for release in a limited run next week. This is another song from the soundtrack. Fantastic.

Scorekeeper/ Michael Feuerstack

The mournful song from this Vancouver/Montreal singer-songwriter is very pleasant, but it's even better when you see the video which is set against a game of "wall ball" shot in an anonymous Montreal gym.

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Music

Bowie to release new album

Rock icon David Bowie, who broke a decade of silence with an album last year, will release more new music in November as part of a greatest-hits collection.

The 67-year-old pioneer of glam rock will release a nearly eight-minute song entitled Sue (or In a Season of Crime) recorded with his long-time producer Tony Visconti, his label said this week.

The track will appear on Nothing Has Changed, a career-spanning compilation in editions of two or three CDs or a double-vinyl set.

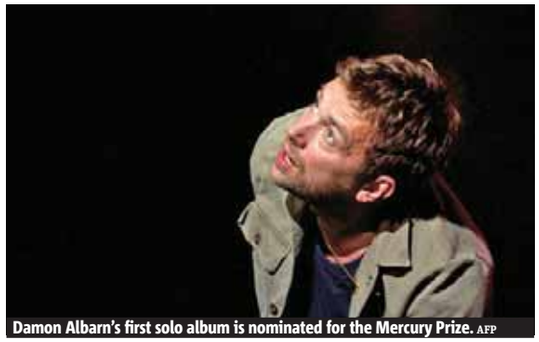
The compilation will be released on Nov, 17 in Britain and Nov. 18 in the United States.

It marks the first new music for Bowie since March 2013 when he released the album The Next Day, which broke a decade-long silence and won both critical praise and commercial success.

AFP

Diverse artists nominated for top British/Irish album

Mercury Prize. Blur's Damon Albarn among an eclectic group praised for their 'inventive passion'


Damon Albarn's first solo album is nominated for the Mercury Prize. AFP

Blur frontman Damon Albarn joined a diverse and obscure array of up-and-coming artists this week, as the Mercury Prize announced an eclectic shortlist for best British or Irish album.

Albarn was by far the most recognizable name among the nominees for best album, with his debut solo work Everyday Robots, which marks a departure from his trademark Britpop sound and features more personal ruminations on technology and loneliness.

But the nominees for the award, which will be announced Oct. 30, were largely obscure artists, with indie rockers the Bombay Bicycle Club the only other big name.

Judge chair Simon Firth said the nominations show that it's "fascinating times" for British music.

"What most impressed the judges was the inventive passion with which musicians explore music and emotional possibilities, refusing to be pinned down by rules or genre," Firth said.

Other nominees include Anna Calvi, known for her intensely charged guitar and soaring vocals; Polar Bear, a jazz band that experiments with electronic elements; and poet Kate Tempest, for a rap album linking each song to a chapter in her novel.

Albarn was involved in one of the biggest spats over the Mercury in 2001, when his lighthearted virtual cartoon band Gorillaz asked to be taken out of the nominations, saying the award would be like a "dead albatross" around their necks.

He did not seem upset at the recognition of his solo work, with his Twitter and Facebook pages both making note of the nomination. AFP

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Dan Konopka, Andy Ross, Tim Nordwind and Damian Kulash of OK GO. GETTY IMAGES

OK Go returns, as inventive as ever

Upside Out. Video masterminds release their first new music since 2008, leading up to a full-length album being released Oct. 14

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro New York

Earlier this summer, music video masterminds OK Go returned with a new creation: a series of optical illusions set to a new song, The Writing's on the Wall.

The song, part of a new EP called Upside Out, is the first new music from the band since their 2008 album, Of the Blue Colour of the Sky. A full-length album, Hungry Ghosts, is due out Oct. 14.

Lead singer Damian Kulash says that's pretty normal for the band, which generally takes about four years to make a new album.

"We take so long making records in part because we're not the fastest songwriters on the planet, but in part because we spend so much time touring and making videos," he explains.

It's apparently pretty complicated to build and operate a massive Rube Goldberg device, as they did for This Too Shall Pass.

A few things have changed about the writing process over the years, though.

Kulash pointed to the band's desire to write more "undirectedly," by which he means letting the music dictate what a song will be about, rather than starting with an idea and working backwards to it.

The result is what Kulash calls a more focused album, despite the more relaxed songwriting method, which he thinks allows for music that's more varied in scope.

"I kind of hate writing lyrics," Kulash admits. "I have so much fun playing with the sounds, and then you wind up with this music, where if things have gone right, it goes in five directions at once. It's something that you can't communicate, or at least I can't communicate verbally."

He points to the way writing the music itself can create a sound with "lust and fury and joy and melancholy all at once." Setting all of that to actual words can mean letting go of some of that feeling.

"When something is both joyful and melancholic at the same time, do you write melancholic lyrics or do you write joyful lyrics?

"Words are so specific. They always have to mean something so literal."

Despite the songwriting challenges, Kulash seems pretty happy with the result.

For those who were big fans of the Blue Colour album, Kulash says the new album "feels like it has a lot of the same sonic textures, but is a much more concise and to-the-point record."

Quoted

"When something is both joyful and melancholic at the same time, do you write melancholic lyrics or do you write joyful lyrics? Words are so specific. They always have to mean something so literal."

Damian Kulash, OK Go lead singer, on creating the band's new album

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Searching for a migraine of truth in Kanye's Aussie ER visit

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Kanye West was hospitalized in Australia this week, and depending on what you read, he either had a frightening, life-threatening seizure or it was just a really bad headache and he's fine. "He just suffered a migraine and went to the hospital simply as a precaution," a rep for the rapper says, pointing out that West made it to the stage for a concert just a few hours later. But a woman who was present at the hospital tells Women's Day a much more alarming story. "My daughter was having an MRI. Shortly after it began, security burst in and cleared the area," Loraine Terry says. "Everyone was moved out of the waiting and consulting rooms. We were the only ones left apart from doctors and nurses. We couldn't leave as the MRI wasn't finished. Next thing we knew, Kanye was stretchered in surrounded by security. He had one side of his face covered with something white. We were shocked because it looked so serious. Everyone was massively panicked." So, who's right? It's a trick question — they both are. Because honestly, West would probably have an entire floor of a hospital cleared for a hangnail, so this seems like a proportional response to a migraine for him.

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Prenup's the Pitts for Brad — if he cheats, Angie gets the kids

So maybe it took so long for Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt to tie the knot because they were working on their massive, heavily detailed prenup. Star magazine claims to have details on the document, which "was encouraged by their lawyers" and "is the best way to protect their kids," according to a source. And considering the murky circumstances by which Pitt and Jolie first came together, it's maybe not so surprising that the agreement has a pretty stringent infidelity clause. "If Brad gets too serious with another woman while they are married, (Jolie) will get primary custody if they split."

So much for his devotion to Mimi. Nick's looking for a new dream girl already

Well, that was fast. Barely a week after proclaiming his undying love for estranged wife Mariah Carey, Nick Cannon is ready to move on, according to Radar Online. "Nick is so over all of this drama. He is just ready to get back to work and doesn't care what Mariah says about him," a source says. "She is the one who messed it all up, not Nick. He is just ready to start over and find a woman that will treat him right."

Nick Cannon

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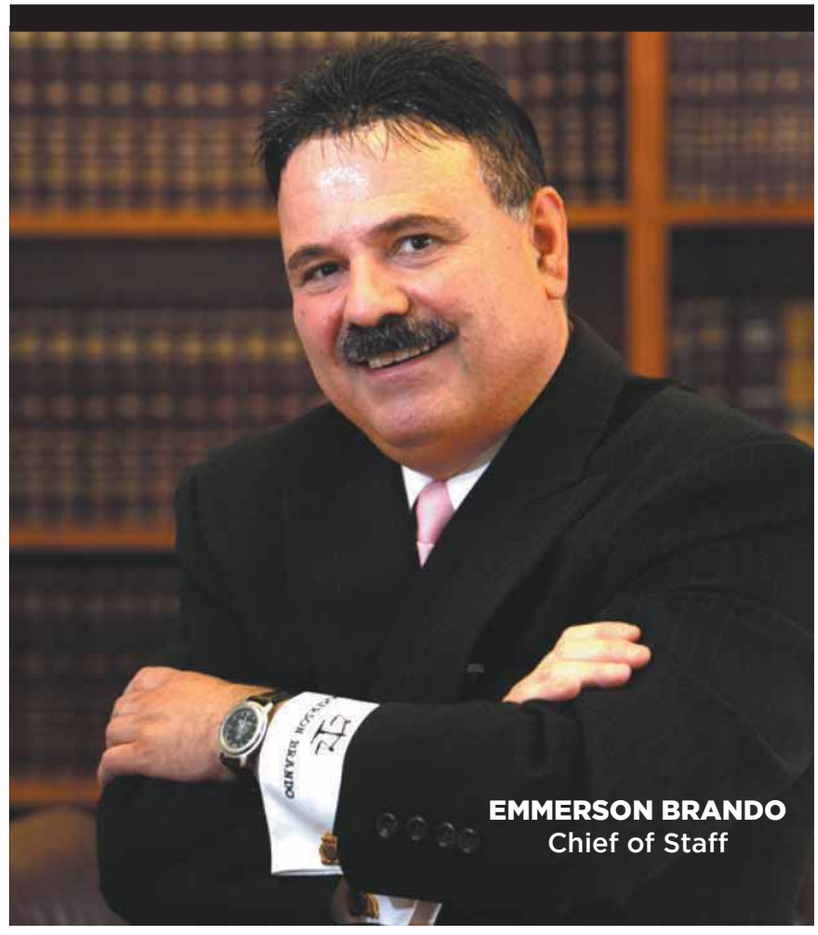

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Bagels work over-time as noon option

Inspired Lunches Week.
These Spicy Chicken Salad Bagels reinvent breakfast staple

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

This recipe makes six sandwiches. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

Spicy Cream Cheese
- 1/2 lb (250 g) cream cheese, softened
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and finely chopped
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 1/2 lime, the juice only

Chicken Salad
- 1/2 avocado, diced
- 1/2 lime, the juice only
- 1 cup (250 ml) diced cooked chicken
- 3/4 cup (180 ml) canned corn kernels, drained
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) sour cream
- 1 plum tomato, seeded and diced
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- 1 green onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) chopped fresh cilantro
- 5 to 6 drops Tabasco sauce
- Salt and pepper

Assembly
- 6 bagels, toasted if desired
- 1 yellow bell pepper, sliced into thin rings
- 6 Boston lettuce leaves
- Salt and pepper

For years, my daughters complained about the so-called boring sandwiches we made them for lunch. One day, we swapped the bread for tortillas and the results were magical.

The next time we opted for a bagel. All of a sudden, lunch was exciting!

And, of course, chicken is always a crowd-pleaser — you can't go wrong.

Spicy Cream Cheese

1. In a bowl, combine all the ingredients with a fork. Season with salt. Keep this mixture refrigerated.

Chicken Salad

2. In a bowl, combine the avocado and lime juice. Add the remaining ingredients. Season with salt and pepper. Keep refrigerated.

Assembly

3. Cut the bagels in half horizontally. Spread with the spicy cream cheese. Add two bell pepper slices and a lettuce leaf on one side. Top with the chicken salad. Close the sandwich.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S UPCOMING ENGLISH EDITION LAUNCHING THIS SEPTEMBER!

Liquid Assets

Pour your way into fall

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

While we may be a couple of weeks away from the start of fall, in my neck of the vineyards the crisp temperatures of autumn have arrived way too soon.

As I say adios to summer — and wrap myself in a fluffy duvet at night — I think about wines that reflect the change in season.

Savoury reds, those with robust fruit and a hint of rustic charm, top my list for fall. Northern Italy knows savoury, whether it be the muscular reds from Piedmont's Barolo and Barbaresco or lighter fare from Vento's Valpolicella and Bardolino.

Valpolicella's ripasso wines strike a nice balance between easy-drinking and full-bodied. Made with juice that has soaked with the skins from the grapes that make the powerful Amarone-style wines, they taste as good on their own as they do with spaghetti and meatballs and stew.

Zonin's 2012 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso ($17.45 - $19.99) has a classic cherry aroma and dark berries and more cherries on the palate. Though dry, there's a soft suggestion of sweet plums that adds to its warming character.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

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NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Beakerhead

As YPs in a city crawling with engineers, we can all finally admit that science is cool, right? If you're still not convinced, Beakerhead is taking over the town to change your mind with four days of exhibits and events showcasing the intersection of science, art and engineering. Check out their website to make sure you don't miss the element that will cause a reaction in you. And if it all feels like one big science fair and you just need a drink, nine restaurants and bars citywide are serving up molecular cocktails all festival long. beakerhead.org (Sept. 10 to 14).

12 Angry Men

Though football season is definitely in full swing, that's not what you'll find at the Pumphouse Theatre this month. This stageplay-turned-film is back again to bring you one of the original courtroom thrillers, with performances so good they'll make the current NFL legal drama seem like an episode of Judge Judy. For ladies out there who are looking for a way to get their guys into theatre, this is it. Nightly performances run from Sept. 11 to 20 and tickets are $20. pumphousetheatre.ca

The Walrus Talks Philanthropy

Generosity is sexy. Informed generosity? Even sexier. Join an esteemed panel of experts, including grown-up child prodigy Craig Kielburger, as they tell us how we've been failing at philanthropy, what we can do to be better at it, and why we should bother at all. Aside from how sexy it is, of course. Check it out Tues. Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at Theatre Junction GRAND. Tickets are $25. Let's learn how to do our part. calgaryculture.com

Apothic Discovery Sessions

Join Canadian Olympic flagbearer Kaillee Humphries at what promises to be a pretty awesome event. Notable.ca has teamed up with favourite wine brand Apothic to bring you an unforgettable night. Tickets are on sale and will get you into this premier networking and social event at the sexy and sophisticated Black Betty to discuss and discover issues relevant to YPs across this fine city. See you there on Sept. 17. More details online at: notable.ca/calgary/apothic/Calgary-Young-Professionals-Welcome-to-the-Discovery-Sessions

Oktoberfest at National

If you've got visions of schnitzel dancing in your head, and you're dreaming of Oktoberfest, be glad. National Beer Hall reads your diary and is kicking off its very own version starting Sept. 19, running all the way to Oct. 5. They've added German-inspired menu items, steins of Village Maibock for $10, and are giving away a trip to Bavarian Town to actually tick this one off of your list. Though lederhosen are encouraged, you'll probably get in wearing your normal attire; you just won't be as fun. Ein Prosit, Calgary!: ntnl.ca

Calgary International Film Festival

Sick of all of your Toronto friends bragging about celebrity sightings at TIFF? Fear not. Calgary's very own film fest starts Sept. 18. It may not have all of Hogtown's glitz and glamour, but this 10-day event has the makings of what film festivals should be about: great cinema. Choose from almost 100 feature-length, documentary and short films from Canada and around the world. And because you're *not* in Toronto, you'll actually get to see the films on your list, so plan them out here: calgaryfilm.com

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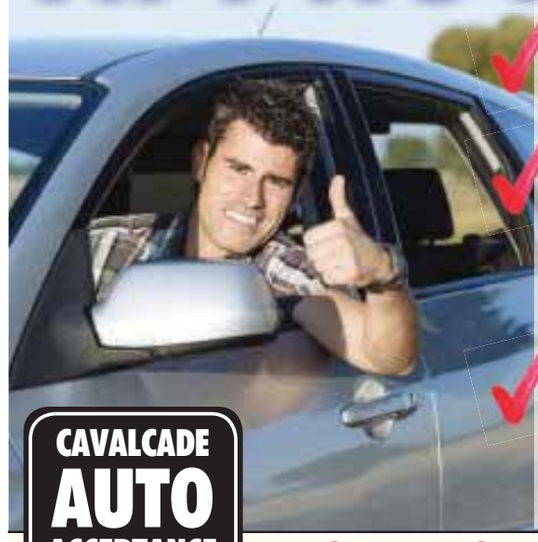

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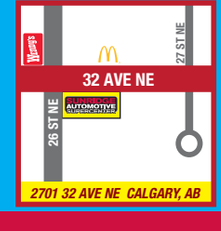

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Bennett says he can do more than just pull-ups

Samuel Bennett couldn't do one pull-up at the NHL combine this past June. He says he did 11 on Thursday. DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Rookie tourney. Fourth overall pick says he wants to change GM's mind about making it to the team this season

For the record, Sam Bennett says he did 11 pull-ups for the Calgary Flames on Thursday.

The fourth overall pick in this year's NHL draft garnered some attention when he couldn't do one at the league's annual combine in June.

Bennett was ready, however, for the physical testing which kicked off the Flames' rookie camp.

"I guess if you're wondering about the pull-ups, I did 11 pull-ups today," Bennett said, anticipating the question from the media. "It's a little bit better than zero, so definitely a little progression on that."

The highest NHL draft pick in Calgary Flames history will play his first game in a flaming C on Friday when Calgary's rookies take on their Winnipeg Jets counterparts in Penticton, B.C.

Calgary, Winnipeg, the Edmonton Oilers and Vancouver Canucks are sending their rookies to the Okanagan Valley for a Young Stars Classic tournament.

So the four-day tournament will also feature forward Leon Draisaitl, this year's third overall pick by the Oilers, as well as Winnipeg's No. 9 selection Nikolaj Ehlers.

"First time throwing on a Flames jersey to play on the ice," Bennett said. "It's going to be great to play against all the young players who are eventually going to be the stars of this league."

The rookie tournament will determine which players advance to main camps next week and who gets assigned to the minors or back to their junior teams.

Bennett signed a three-year, entry-level contract with the Flames in July. Barring injury, he'll participate in main camp and will likely get into Flames exhibition games.

Perhaps as a means of taking pressure off Bennett, new Calgary general manager Brad Treliving has said in the past he doesn't expect the 18-year-old from Holland Landing, Ont., to make the team this season.

"If that's what they're thinking right now, I'm going to do everything I can in training camp and in the exhibition games to change their mind and prove to them that I am ready to play," Bennett said.

The six-foot, 185-pound Bennett played a smart, skilled, scrappy game for the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs last season and was ranked the top draft prospect by Central Scouting. Bennett led the Frontenacs in scoring with 36 goals and 55 assists in 57 games.

Flames forward Sean Monahan made an immediate impression after the Calgary took him sixth overall in 2013. Monahan finished fourth in NHL rookie scoring with 22 goals last season.

Bennett says he won't compare himself to Monahan.

"It comes down to just worrying about myself," he said. "I know what my goal is and I know what I want to achieve so I think that's really what I'm going to be focused on."

As a client of strength and conditioning coach Andy O'Brien, Bennett was invited to join other clients including Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby and Chicago Blackhawks stars Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane for a high-altitude conditioning camp in Vail, Colo., last week.

"The thing I got out of that was watching how they performed and what they do when no one else is around," Bennett said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Confident

"I'm not going to set expectations based on what other players did last year. All my expectations are based on myself." Sam Bennett

Young Stars Classic

The Flames rookies take on the Winnipeg Jets on Friday, the Oilers on Saturday and wrap up the tournament Monday against the Canucks.

4 SPORTS

Raven on: Steelers fall in Baltimore

NFL. Flacco and Co. get job done after week filled with scandal surrounding Ray Rice

Ravens tight end Owen Daniels fights through a tackle against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Thursday night in Baltimore. Daniels had a touchdown in the first quarter of the Ravens' win. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A short and tumultuous work week for the Baltimore Ravens ended with a surprisingly lopsided victory.

Playing three days after running back Ray Rice was released, the Ravens got a pair of touchdown passes from Joe Flacco and rolled past the rival Pittsburgh Steelers 26-6 on Thursday night.

Rice was reaching the end of a two-game suspension for domestic violence when a video of him striking his then-fiancée surfaced Monday. By the end of the day, the three-time Pro Bowler had been cut by Baltimore and suspended indefinitely by the NFL.

The media immediately descended upon the team's training complex, and the line of questioning had little to do with this heated AFC North rivalry.

The Ravens (1-1) shrugged off the distraction to bounce back from a season-opening loss at home to division rival Cincinnati.

Week 2

Ravens	Steelers
26	6

Bernard Pierce took over for Rice to gain 96 yards on 22 carries as part of a ground game that finished with 157 yards. Flacco went 21 for 29 for 166 yards and two TD throws to tight end Owen Daniels, and Justin Tucker kicked four field goals.

Pittsburgh (1-1) managed only two field goals and committed three turnovers — one that halted its opening drive, another that set up a fourth-quarter field goal by Tucker, and an interception by Ben Roethlisberger with 1:51 remaining.

It was only the second time in the last 11 regular-season meetings between the teams that the outcome was decided by more than three points.

Roethlisberger completed 22 of 37 passes for 217 yards. It was the first time since Nov. 26, 2006, that Baltimore held Pittsburgh without a touchdown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rice. U.S. senators press NFL for zero tolerance on domestic violence

Sixteen female senators from both parties called on the National Football League Thursday to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on domestic violence.

The senators said they were "shocked and disgusted" by a video showing former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice punching his then-fiancée and knocking her unconscious.

"Tragically, this is not the only case of an NFL player allegedly assaulting a woman even within the last year," the senators wrote in a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

The senators said they were deeply concerned that a new policy Goodell announced last month would let a player commit a violent act and return to the field after a six-game suspension.

"If you violently assault a woman, you shouldn't get a second chance to play football in the NFL," the letter said.

Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of California put the letter together. It's signed by 14 Democrats and two Republicans. Four other female senators — two Democrats and two Republicans — did not sign the letter, which Boxer's office said was put together quickly after the Rice video was released earlier this week.

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holly Laucht wears a Ravens Ray Rice jersey as she tailgates before Thursday night's game in Baltimore. GAIL BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A's spectacular slump: There's no end in sight

Free fall. 'We're playing for our lives now,' says Melvin after 11th loss in 14 games

Coco Crisp of the Oakland A's makes a catch as he collides with Jonny Gomes, standing, on Thursday in Chicago, Ill. DAVID BANKS/GETTY IMAGES

Their chances of winning the AL West have pretty much slipped away. Now, the Oakland Athletics need to score some runs before they lose a playoff spot altogether.

The A's continued their freefall Thursday, when Chris Sale bested Scott Kazmir in a brilliant pitchers' duel. Light-hitting Marcus Semien homered for the only run and the Chicago White Sox won 1-0.

The A's lost for the 11th time in 14 games. Their lead in the AL wild-card race dwindled to one game over Detroit, 1-1/2 over Seattle and 3-1/2 over the Toronto Blue Jays and Cleveland Indians.

"We're playing for our lives now," manager Bob Melvin conceded. "I mean, that's just the way it is. We put ourselves in this position."

Once leading the division, the A's began the day nine games behind the Los Angeles Angels. Oakland starts a three-game showdown in Seattle on Friday night.

Facing Sale, Oakland posed its only threat in the eighth, when Jed Lowrie singled and Alberto Callaspo drew a two-out walk. Coco Crisp bounced out to end the inning.

"Right up there," Lowrie said when asked where Sale ranked among starting pitchers. "Off-hand, I can't give you a number, but he's one of the better ones in the game."

Yet the A's have had to tip their caps too many times since the All-Star break. They've scored more than three runs only 15 times in the 39 games since slugger Yoenis Cespedes was traded to Boston on July 31.

Melvin suggested his team might need to get back to its loose ways again.

"We've been two different teams — the one that played through July and the one that's at this point right now," he said.

"We're trying as a staff to stay positive. At times, I get upset. At times, you have to be supportive. Today they were trying. They were trying as hard as they could. Sometimes maybe you have to try a little easier," he said.

"It's a tough run that we're facing right now," Kazmir said. "The only way to get out of it is to stay positive and keep battling."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter Classic

NHL cuts ties with HBO for 24/7

HBO will not broadcast 24/7 leading up to this season's Winter Classic, a spokesman for the network told The Canadian Press.

The Washington Capitals and Chicago Blackhawks will meet at Nationals Park in Washington on Jan. 1.

"We are not partnering up with HBO for all access this year," a league spokesman said in an email. "They were a great partner for the last years." The spokesman said the league would announce plans for its new Winter Classic all-access show partner Sept. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Americans romp to final

U.S. centre DeMarcus Cousins vies with Lithuanian centre Jonas Valanciunas during their FIBA World Cup semifinal, Thursday in Barcelona. The U.S. won 96-68 and faces the France-Serbia winner in Sunday's final in Madrid. **Scan the image with the Metro News app for a gallery from the game.** LUIS GENE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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2011 GMC TERRAIN SLE -2 AWD — 77,093KM — $18,872
2012 HONDA CR-V LX AWD AUTOMATIC — 58,740KM — $24,524
2013 DODGE DURANGO SXT 8 PASSENGER — 26,958KM — $29,928
2010 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD 8 PASSENGER — 3 TO CHOOSE FROM — 114,130KM — $36,879
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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you need to ask someone for a financial favour, do so now while they are in a generous mood. When it comes to creative endeavors don't sell yourself short.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
A rival may appear to have an advantage because they are prepared to use dishonest methods but their tactics will rebound on them.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
With Mars moving into your opposite sign you may find that minor problems loom a lot larger than before. You'll find ways to deal with them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
This should be a day to remember. New friendships will be made with ease and existing relationships will improve dramatically. The more you open up to others, the more they will open up to you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Any bad feelings you have about a career move you are planning to make will disappear over the next 24 hours. The only thing worth fearing is fear itself.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your confidence may dip today but it's nothing to worry about. As Mars moves into one of the more sensitive areas of your chart, keep your head down.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
No matter how ambitious a Libra you may be there are more important things in life than material success, and today you will be reminded what they are.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This will be a day of fun but make the most of it because Mars will be disrupting things over the weekend. If there is something you can do to reduce chances of disorder, do it now.

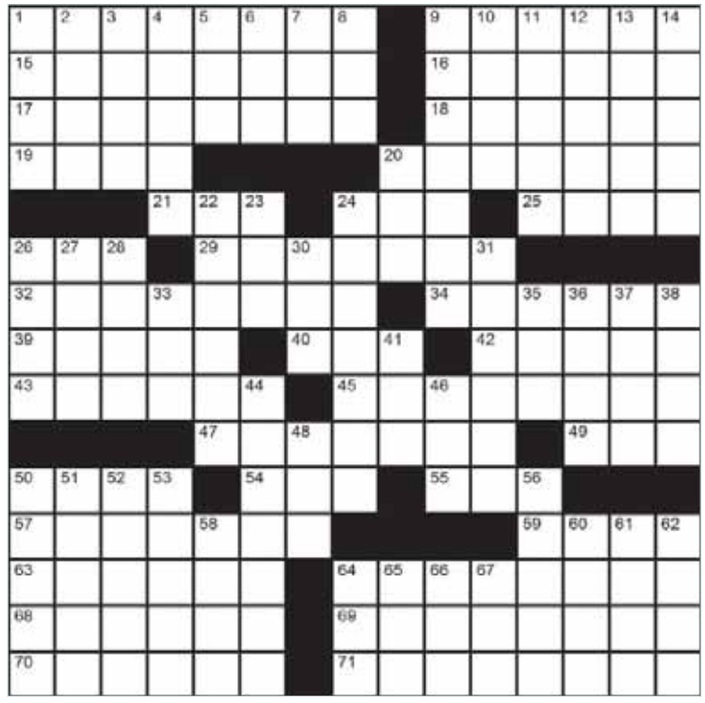
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Come the weekend you will be free to express yourself in ways that may not have been possible before. However, you will also have to exercise a certain amount of self-discipline.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There comes a time when the old must give way to the new and according to the planets you are approaching that time. Don't worry. Changes are good and just what you need.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you feel drained, you must take it as a sign that you need to slow down. A short rest now will do wonders for your energy levels during the early part of next week.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You need to give up on a personal vendetta. Confrontations like this are not worth it. Let it go. You'll feel better for it.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Canadian hero who ran the Marathon of Hope in 1980 to raise money for cancer research: 2 wds.
9. Proclamations
15. Gossamer
16. Reserved
17. Bedroom pieces
18. Outfitted one
19. Chair
20. Agricultural activity
21. Stockholm is its cap.
24. Auto
25. Fully satisfy
26. Extinct bird of New Zealand
29. Amaretto flavourings
32. 1993 chart-topper for #38-Down
34. C-a-n-a-d-i-... (Works out the letters)
39. "War" singer Edwin
40. Fleur-de-__
42. Plane, in Paris
43. Rich cakes
45. "Heartbeat - It's a Love Beat": 1973 hit for Canadian band The __ Family
47. Hiawatha's grandmother in Longfellow's poem
49. __ truck
50. Soapbox
54. "__ and Bill" (1930) starring #51-Down
55. Bird beak
57. Brangelina, now
59. 24-hr. bankers
63. '90s series, "The Adventures of __ County, Jr."
64. BASE Jumping outfit
68. Actress Ms. Brennan
69. Canadian energy company
70. Associate
71. Congeniality

Down
1. Mr. Danson's
2. Raison d'__
3. Ms. Perlman
4. Musical pauses
5. Decade divs.
6. Membership __
7. Paddle
8. T-shirts sizes
9. Kathleen __, Ottawa-born singer/songwriter
10. __ Lake, Nfld.
11. Islamic leaders
12. Governing body of The Vatican
13. Southern Ontario: __-Severn Waterway
14. Twilled fabric
20. Rooter
22. Mr. Christie who plays Sergeant Mark Cross on CTV's "Motive"
23. __ tree
24. __ Avenue (Trendy locale in Winnipeg)
26. Light fog
27. Aware of a trick: 2 wds.
28. Way off
30. "thirtysomething" actress Ms. Harris
31. Slimly spread
33. Bit of food
35. Little __ (Singer of #37-Down)
36. Dryer buildup
37. "The __-Motion"
38. Toronto-born rapper aka Darrin O'Brien
41. Theological sch.
44. "__ Who's Cool" by Vancouver band Odds
46. Detective __ Tutuola (Character played by #58-Down)
48. Mr. Rock
50. Model/actress Ms. Rose
51. Cobourg, ON born actress Ms. Dressler
52. Flatfish type
53. By land __ __
56. Bathroom bowl
58. "Law & Order: SVU" actor
60. Slang sassiness
61. "Top Gun" (1986) flying foes
62. Jeanne d'Arc, et al.
64. Hair care brand
65. Pasta suffix
66. SNL's network
67. Crete's country, curtly

Yesterday's Crossword

Online
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

			2			5		
7	3						1	
		5			7		8	
	5	3	9	1			6	
9								2
	6			8	2	3	4	
	9		8			6		
	1						9	3
		4			3			

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	1	7	5	4	8	9	6
8	7	6	3	2	9	4	5	1
4	5	9	1	8	6	7	2	3
5	2	4	8	6	3	9	1	7
3	1	8	5	9	7	6	4	2
6	9	7	2	4	1	3	8	5
1	6	2	9	3	8	5	7	4
7	8	3	4	1	5	2	6	9
9	4	5	6	7	2	1	3	8

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